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HANDBOOK

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FOR

BERKSHIRE.

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INCLUDING

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WITH 3 MAPS AND 2 PLANS.

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PREFACE.

It is hoped that this Handbook, written for Mr. Murray's series, may prove of use to such sober-minded people as can still be found to take pleasure in the quiet scenery and antiquities of an agricultural county. It is the result of personal exploration, reinforced by the assistance of many friends.

Among those whose help has been particularly valuable, I should like to mention Mr. H. E. Luxmoore for Windsor, Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A., for Newbury, and Mr. Claridge Druce, of Oxford, who contributed the special sections on Botany and Geology. A dear brother, who was my constant companion in all expeditions, and who devoted endless pains to the compilation of this book, passed away on the eve of its publication.

It is unavoidable that there should be some errors in a work of this sort, and the publisher, Mr. Edward Stanford, will gratefully receive notice of any corrections.

John Meade Falkner.

June, 1902.

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MAPS AND PLANS.

PRINCIPAL ABBREVIATIONS USED.

ante = referred to earlier in the same Route.
A.-S. = Anglo-Saxon (before 1066; prior to the Conquest).
b. = born (date of birth).
cent. = century.
c. = *circa* (about).
Ch. = church.
cf. = *confer* (compare).
d. = died (date of death).
Dec. = Decorated Gothic (1307 to 1377: Edward II. and Edward III.).
E.E. = Early English or Lancet (1189 to 1307: Richard I. to Edward I.).
Elizab. = Elizabethan.
H.Bk. = Handbook.
l. = left hand.
m. = mile, miles.
min. = minute.
Norm. = Norman style (1066 to 1189: William I. to Henry II.).
Perp. = Perpendicular style (1377 to 1547: Richard II. to Henry VIII.).
post = referred to later in the same Route.
r, rt. = right hand.
Rte. = Route.
Rly. = Railway.
stat. = station.
temp. = *tempore* (in the time of).
Trans. = transition (from one style to another).

An asterisk, ✱, prefixed to a place signifies that it is of special interest.

HANDBOOK

FOR

BERKSHIRE.

INTRODUCTION.

Natural Divisions.

Berkshire, written Barkshire by Leland, and generally so pronounced, is styled Bearrucsire by the Saxon chroniclers, and by mediæval writers Bercheira; but many other changes are rung upon the name. Asser derives it from "the wood of Berroc, where the box-tree grows most abundantly" (*Life of Alfred*); others from some well-known "bare-oak," under which assemblies were held; others see in it a connection with Bibroci or Bibrocci the name given by Cæsar (*Bell. Gall.*) to a tribe living thereabouts at the time of his invasion. From such wild guess-work it may be gathered that the etymology is really quite uncertain.

The county is very irregular in shape. Ashmole compares it to a lute; Fuller, more prosaically, to a slipper. It has a greatest length of about 50 miles from Shrivenham to Old Windsor, and a greatest breadth of about 31 miles from the Thames N.W. of Oxford to the border of Hants below Newbury, while at Reading it is only about seven miles across. Its area is 896 square miles, or 573,689 acres, and its population has increased from 176,256 in 1861 to 196,475 in 1871, 218,382 in 1881, 267,127 in 1891, and 283,536 in 1901.

Reading (pop. 72,214 in 1901) is the county town, where sessions and assizes are held. Beside this there are municipal boroughs: Abingdon, Maidenhead, Newbury, Wallingford, and New Windsor.

Of other towns Faringdon, Hungerford, Wantage, and Wokingham are the most important.

For voting purposes the county is grouped under three divisions —Abingdon, Newbury, and Wokingham—each of which sends a member to Parliament; the Boroughs of Reading and Windsor also return one member each.

Nature has divided Berkshire into four parts: the Vale of the White Horse, on the N.; the Vale of Kennet, on the S.; the hill district of the Downs, between them; and lastly, all that part of the county which lies E. of the Loddon, and has been called the Forest District.

"Each of these four districts has its distinct characteristics, and each has minor divisions of its own. Thus, the Vale of the White Horse comprises on its N. side a low range of secondary hills, which run along the bank of the Thames from Faringdon to Radley, and include Cumnor and Bagley Wood. These are sand-hills, while the soil of the vale proper is for the most part a strong grey loam, mixed with large quantities of vegetable mould.

"The hill district includes the high chalk range, of which the White Horse Hill (893 feet) and Cuckamsley Hill (or Scutchamore Knob) are the highest points. Towards the N. the range is bold, and the descent into the vale steep, and the hills are indented with a number of little 'cooms,' or meadows clothed with copse, while towards the S. it melts gradually away into the Vale of the Kennet. There is very little soil over the chalk on the higher part of the range, which is still used chiefly for sheep-walks. The outlier, Inkpen Beacon, in the S. of the county (959 feet) is the highest point reached by the chalk in England.

"The Vale of the Kennet comprises the low lands which lie along its banks, and includes clays, gravels, and a large and deep bed of peat; also the strip of wild and high sandy common land which runs along the extreme S. boundary of the county.

"The Forest district comprises the small outlying piece of the chalk range which has strayed back over the Thames at Wargrave, and leaves it at Maidenhead; and the forest proper, which, however, includes towns and flourishing hamlets, and many hundred acres of good enclosed land, from Windsor to the Loddon. Formerly the forest stretched right away up the Vale of Kennet to Hungerford, some 40 miles as the crow flies."

Leland speaks of a "great warfeage of timber and fier wood at the W. ende of the (Maidenhead) bridge; and this wood," he adds, "cummith out of Barkshir, and the great woddis of the forest of Windelesore and the greate Frithe." Windsor Castle stands on a solitary mass of chalk, surrounded by stiff clay.

Railway Communication.

Berkshire is well provided with railways. The main line of the Great Western Railway (London, Swindon, Bath, Bristol)

enters the county at Maidenhead, and proceeds by Twyford to Reading, one of the most important stations on the route. From Reading the line sweeps north-west, and then west, past Pangbourne, Cholsey and Moulsford, Didcot Junction, Steventon, Wantage Road, and Uffington, after which it enters Wilts. From Slough (Bucks) a branch runs south to Eton and Windsor; from Didcot there is a branch to Oxford, by means of which Reading is placed in direct communication with the north. At Radley, on this line, a short branch runs west to Abingdon. From Didcot there is also a branch southwards to Newbury, and thence to Winchester (Hants) and the south. From Maidenhead a branch runs to Oxford by way of Cookham, High Wycombe (Bucks), and Thame (Ox.). There are short branches from Twyford to Henley-on-Thames, from Moulsford to Wallingford, and from Uffington to Faringdon. Westward from Reading the southern portion of the county is traversed by a line which passes through Newbury and Hungerford, and thence proceeds by the new main line to Weymouth. The London and South Western and the South Eastern and Chatham Railways have a line in common from Reading to Wokingham, where they diverge, the former running by Ascot, Staines (branch to Windsor), and Richmond to London; and the latter by Guildford to Reigate, through which Reading is connected with the entire southern system and with London. From Reading a branch of the Great Western Railway goes south to Basingstoke, on the London and South Western main line from London to Plymouth. The Lambourn Valley Light Railway, 12½ miles in length, connects Lambourn with Newbury. It was opened in 1898.

Rivers and Canals.

The Thames becomes the boundary of the county near Lechlade, and, in a circuitous course of 110 miles, divides it from Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, and Buckinghamshire. It is navigable as far as Oxford, and communicates with the Severn by the Thames and Severn Canal.

At Abingdon the Ock joins the Thames. This river rises near Shrivenham, runs a course of 20 miles, during which it receives several small tributaries, and is celebrated for its pike.

Near Sonning the Thames receives "the Kennet swift, for silver eels renowned." The Kennet rises in Wiltshire, enters Berkshire near Hungerford, and flows for 30 miles before it is merged in the bigger river. It has two tributaries: the Lambourn, and the Enborne, Embourn, or Ambourn. The Lambourn rises in the chalk hills above Lambourn village, has a course of 15 miles, and flows into the Kennet near Newbury. The Enborne rises at Inkpen, flows for 17 miles, and meets the Kennet near Aldermaston. Both Kennet and Lambourn are good fishing streams, and produce trout, eels, crayfish, roach, and dace. The trout of Kennet are of

great size, those of the Lambourn of paler colour, and not so much esteemed. The Kennet has been made navigable from Newbury to the Thames, a distance by stream of 20 miles.

"The Loddon slow with verdant alders crowned," falls into the Thames at Reading. The Blackwater rises near Aldershot, in Hampshire, and forms the boundary between Surrey and Hampshire for 7 m.; then for 8 or 9 m. it forms the boundary between Berkshire and Hampshire, and afterwards flows for 12 m. within the county, passing through Hurst Park, and receiving the Emme brook on the way. The small river Cole rises near Shrivenham, divides Berks from Wilts, and falls into the Thames near Lechlade.

Berkshire is not lacking in canal communication. In the N. the Wilts and Berks Canal runs from Abingdon past Wantage to Semington, in Wilts, where it joins the Kennet and Avon Canal. In the S. the Kennet and Avon Canal runs from Newbury, *viâ* Hungerford and Devizes, to Bath, and thence by the Avon to Bristol and the Severn. Berkshire has also a waterway to the W. in the Thames and Severn Canal.

Industry and Manufactures.

In Ashmole's time the Berkshire land brought heavy rents, but even when he wrote (*c.* 1720) the "Clothing-manufacture, which was the greatest in Newbury and Reading, and supplied almost the whole nation, had long lost its antient credit." The Berkshire of to-day is almost exclusively agricultural and resident, though Reading, a populous railway-centre, can boast of the establishments of Messrs. Huntley & Palmers, the biscuit-makers, and of Messrs. Suttons, the seedsmen.

Geology.

The Geological formations that come to the surface within the county are given in descending order as follows:—Post-Tertiary, including Clay with Flints, Low-level Alluvium, and High-level Alluvium and Gravels. The clay with flints is to be found covering considerable areas of the central chalk. The low-level alluvium is well represented near the junction of the Ock with the Thames, and also in the Kennet valley, where the interesting irrigated meadows owe their origin to this deposit, which near Newbury is made up of alternate beds of peat, clay, and shell marl. In these deposits bones of the roe-deer, wild boar, ox, wolf, and beaver have been found. The Low-level Alluvium is found along a large tract of meadow-land between Marlow and Windsor. The high-level alluvium is found at Culham, Wytham, North Hinksey, etc.

The Tertiary, or Eocene, consisting of the Bagshot Beds, which cover large tracts of the heathy country near Sandhurst

and Wokingham; the London Clay, which is especially represented over a wide area between Reading and Windsor, and at the hills of Bowsey, Ashley, and Crazey, give a distinct character to the scenery, the former being 454 ft. in altitude. The northern outcrop of the London Clay is a broad one, the range of hills from Cold Ash Common to Mare's Ridges consisting greatly of this formation, and there are also many outliers. The Reading Beds once formed an unbroken sheet extending over the whole of the chalk, and although they have been largely swept away by denudation, a very large number of outliers testify that they had formerly a much wider range. Among the most important of the areas may be mentioned Curridge Common, Wickham Heath, Snelsmore Common, Frilsham, Tilehurst, Yattendon, Greenham, and Crookham Commons.

The Secondary, or Mesozoic, formation, consisting of the Cretaceous Beds—namely, Chalk, Upper Greensand, and Gault—are well represented. The whole of the central portion of the county is occupied by the Chalk, which in the White Horse Hill reaches an altitude of 840 ft., and at Walbury, on the S. side of the Kennet, of 959 ft. Windsor Castle is situated on an inlying boss of chalk, which is distinct from the main mass. At the junction of the upper and more pervious portions of the chalk with the chalk marl, numerous powerful springs are thrown out, which are largely utilised for the growth of watercress, as at Ashbury; and the situation of the long line of villages at the base of the chalk escarpment is due to the early settlers choosing their home near to the copious supply of water. At Kintbury there is a considerable manufacture of whiting—as much as 2000 tons having been made in a single year. The Upper Greensand occupies a belt of country from the Wiltshire border on the W. to the Oxfordshire border on the E.

The Gault forms a zone varying from one to three miles in width on the N. of the Upper Greensand, and consists of flat and uninteresting scenery, while the soil is often stiff and heavy. The Neocomian Beds are represented by the Lower Greensand, and consist in the main of sands, often coarse and pebbly, usually more or less rusty in colour, and not unfrequently so strongly impregnated with iron oxide as to deserve the name of an iron ore. One of its local variations is the Faringdon gravel, which is almost entirely composed of finely comminuted shells and hard parts of other organisms, in which are embedded fossil sponges, molluscs, brachiopods, and sea urchins. Among the characteristic fossils figured in "Phillips' Geology of Oxford" are *Manon Faringdonensis*, *Cidaris Faringdonensis*, and *Lima Faringdonensis*. An outlier of the greensand at Boar's Hill reaches 535 ft. in altitude, and affords a very beautiful view over Oxford and the Vale of the White Horse; Faringdon Clump and Badbury Hill are capped with this deposit, and the river Thames cuts through some picturesque cliffs of the Lower Greensand at

Clifton Hampden. The Jurassic Beds are represented by the Portland Beds, the Kimmeridge Clay, the Corallian Beds, and the Oxford Clay. The first of these consists only of a small outlier, on which the village of Bourton, near Shrivenham, is built. The Kimmeridge Clay forms a tract of unpicturesque country, with a stiff, cold, damp soil. In the W. of the county it forms flat, wet fields about Shrivenham, and extends as far as Longcot; then it is concealed by the Faringdon Sponge-gravels of the Lower Greensand, and, owing to the unconformity of the representatives of the Cretaceous and Oolitic formations, the Lower Greensand strata rest directly on the Coral Rag. The Kimmeridge Clay reappears on the E. side of Coles' Pits, and then stretches as a band of varying width (1 to 3 m.), principally on the S. side of the Ock, as far E. as Sutton Courtney. It also forms a zone round the eminences of Boar's Hill and Cumnor.

The Corallian Beds form a plateau rising in a low escarpment on the N. above the Oxford Clay, and have a gentle slope to the S. The soil is light and open, sandy or rubbly, according as sand or limestone forms the bed rock. At Wytham the formation rises as an outlier to a height of 538 ft. The Oxford Clay, the oldest geological formation in Berkshire, forms a narrow strip of low-lying land a mile or two across, bordering the southern bank of the Thames from Lechlade to Botley. It also stretches from Coleshill to Lechlade (the village of North Hinksey is situated on it), a narrow strip runs round Wytham Hill, and an irregular piece reaches as far S. as Iffley. It is probably as much as 500 ft. thick in the county, and everywhere its soil is damp and cold, and usually under pasture.

Botany.

From the varied nature of the geology and soils of the county the flora is of an interesting character, and comprises a larger number of species than other counties of larger acreage. The large extent of heaths and bogs in the southern, and to some extent in the more central, portion of the county, the extensive woodlands, the large area of chalk downs, and the alluvial meadows which border the Thames along the 110 miles of its Berkshire course, are all factors of importance in contributing to the number of native species of the county. In my "Flora" of the county I enumerated as "plants native to the county, 893; plants which are denizens only, 45, and colonists, 56, making a grand total of 994 species." In addition, 15 other species are either extinct or have been improperly recorded, and 200 species are of casual occurrence, or have been introduced. We have no species peculiar to the county (unless the Loddon Pondweed can be called a true species), but one of the most local of British plants occurs on the Bagshot Sands near Sandhurst, namely, *Illecebrum verticillatum*, previously to its discovery in Berkshire known only from Devon and Cornwall.

Another rarity from the same neighbourhood is *Elatine Hydropiper*, elsewhere known from Surrey and Anglesey. *Anemone Pulsatilla* occurs on the central chalk downs and in one locality on the Coralline Oolite. The very local *Orchis militaris* still sparingly occurs by the chalk woods. A plant which is very rare in southern Britain, *Galium sylvestre*, is also found on one of the chalk-slopes near Sulham, and the beautiful *Myosotis sylvatica* adorns one of the hanging woods on Riever Hill, near Hungerford; and in some woods in the central part of the chalk downs, the *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum* occurs in considerable quantity. Another feature of the chalk woods is the beautiful Solomon's Seal, *Polygonatum multiflorum*, which, though here extremely abundant, is extremely rare in the similar woods on the Oxfordshire side of the river. The fly, the frog, the bee, two kinds of the butterfly, and the pyramidal orchids are also found, as well as the white helleborine, the fragrant orchis, both species of marsh orchis, the dwarf orchis, and the musk orchis—though this last is very local.

One of the chief features of the flora of the grassy chalk downs is the beautiful chalk milkwort, which forms round patches of the purest blue-coloured flowers. In barer places the *Hippocrepis comosa* affords a charming contrast in its rich yellow flowers. Here, too, occur *Thesium humifusum*, and the *Asperula cynanchica* is especially abundant. Dotted over the area of the chalk downs is *Senecio campestris*. The woodlands on the chalk also afford *Helleboris viridis*, var. *occidentalis*, *Atropa Belladonna*, *Neottia Nidus-avis*, *Hypopitys Monotropa*, *Epipactis latifolia*, *E. violacea*, *Paris quadrifolia*, *Daphne Mezereum* and *Laureola*, and *Ruscus aculeatus*.

A very local species, namely *Gentiana germanica*, with a hybrid, *G. Pamplinii*, discovered for the first time by the author, occurs on one of the old British earthworks which dominates the Vale of the White Horse. Bagley Wood has long been known as the place of growth of the delicate little ivy-leaved campanula; the graceful *Carex pendula* is extremely abundant in Wytham woods, and the handsome *Scirpus sylvaticus* is still found near Hinksey. The wood-side near Tubney is festooned with the rare *Polygonum dumetorum* and the showy *Lathyrus sylvestris*. In the centre of the Vale, on some meadows on the Kimmeridge Clay, a spring of water which has percolated through the Coralline Oolite is sufficiently charged with saline matter to be distinctly salt to the taste. This exerts a marked effect on the vegetation in the vicinity, for in this midland locality we have several plants whose natural habitat is by the sea. For instance, the sea spurrey, *Tissa* or *Buda marina*, *Scirpus maritimus*, *Carex distans*, *Xannichellia pedunculata*, *Oenanthe Lachenalii*, and *Juncus Gerardi*. The upland meadows of the Thames yield the fritillary; it is particularly abundant near Oxford, but somewhat less frequent in the meadows of the Kennet and Loddon. At intervals along the

Thames from Kennington southwards the beautiful "snowflake" is to be found, while the fringed water-lily (*Limnanthomum*) is to be seen floating upon the water. The water soldier occurs in some ditches near Abingdon, where the large spearwort is also found. Another striking feature of the riparian flora of the Thames is *Sium latifolium*, which, with the great water-dock and reed-grass (*Phragmites*) and the two species of reed-mace, give a very picturesque effect. The irrigated water-meadows of the Kennet, with the extensive reed-beds, also offer many interesting plants, two of which do not occur in the Berkshire part of the upper Thames, namely, *Oenanthe crocata* and *Geum rivale*. The abundance of the former species in southern Berkshire contrasts strangely with its extremely local distribution in Oxfordshire. Near Southcote another umbelliferous rarity occurs in *Smyrnium Olusatrum*. At Virginia Water a hybrid of *Scutellaria galericulata* with *minor* occurs plentifully. In that ornamental piece of water *Potamogeton alpinus* and *P. obtusifolius* and *Elatine hexandra* are found, but the latter is just outside the Berkshire boundary. The heathlands yield several species which are not found in Oxfordshire: these include *Hypochœris glabra*, *Scirpus cæspitosus*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *D. longifolia*, *Equisetum sylvaticum*, *Carex canescens*, *C. elongata*, *C. Bœnninghausiana*, *Rynchospora alba*, *Narthecium ossifragrum*, *Sagina subulata*, *Lycopodium inundatum*, *Agrostis setacea*, *Ranunculus Lenormandi*, *Gentiana Pneumonanthe*, *Myosotis repens*, *Myrica Gale*, *Phegopteris*, *Elatine hexandra*, and *Pilularia*. The marshes afford *Carex elata*, the marshy woods *C. lævigata*, and the heathy woods *Osmunda*, which are not found in Oxfordshire.

One plant of especial interest is found in the river Loddon, the only locality for it known at the present time—namely, *Potamogeton Drucei*, which is supposed to be a hybrid of *P. alpinus* with some other species. It is the most beautiful pondweed known in Britain. In the north of the county another local pondweed, *P. coloratus*, occurs in a bog on the Coralline Oolite with *Utricularia major* and *minor*, *Epipactis palustris*, *Orchis incarnata*, *Samolus*, and many interesting sedges. In a wood near Pusey the Russian balsam, *Impatiens parviflora*, is abundant, and in another wood in the same district *Lilium Martagon* abounds. The Enborne brook and the Kennet are bordered with two North American plants now completely naturalised, one the yellow monkey-flower *Mimulus Langsdorfii*, the other *Impatiens bicolor*, the showy orange flowers of the latter being very conspicuous.

The arable fields on the chalk afford *Fumaria densiflora*, *F. Vaillantii*, and *F. parviflora*. In these, too, the author discovered a new species of grass (*Bromus interruptus*), which has since been found in Oxfordshire, Surrey, Hants, Bucks, and other counties. In a wood near Hungerford *Poa Chaixii* occurs in what may be a native situation. The arable fields in the neighbourhood of Sandhurst and Old Windsor afford *Apera*

Spica-venti, *Arnoseris*, and *Filago apiculata*, and the marshes near Waltham *Alopocurus fulvus*. An upland meadow in the neighbourhood of Kintbury has a magnificent show of the spring crocus, and another near Watchfield is full of the star of Bethlehem. The yellow star of Bethlehem lingers in the country made celebrated by Matthew Arnold.

The brambles are extremely well represented, few if any British counties affording so large a number of species; the Boar's Hill range and the neighbourhood of Wellington College being particularly rich. Among the rarer species may be mentioned *R. nessensis*, *R. fissus*, *R. holerythros*, *R. sulcatus*, *R. Colemanni*, *R. lentiginosus*, *R. Questierii*, and *R. mercicus*.

Among the roses we have *R. sepium* (*agrestis*), *R. systyla*, and *R. glauca*.

[For a full enumeration of the plants of Berkshire, as well as a history and biography of the botanists of the county, with a sketch of the geology, the admirable "Flora of Berkshire," by G. Claridge Druce, M.A., F.L.S., who has contributed the foregoing note on the Botany and Geology, may be consulted. It is published by the Clarendon Press.]

Berkshire is famous for its box-trees, hollies, and yews. Of the last Cowper sang:

> "Our fathers knew the value of a screen
> From sultry sun; and in their shady walks,
> And long protracted bowers, enjoyed at noon
> The gloom and coolness of declining day."

Roman Remains.

Berkshire contains no Roman remains of first-rate importance, but it has its fair share of the ordinary vestiges of Roman occupation, and these naturally occur most frequently along the lines of communication. Here first in importance, perhaps, is the river Thames, which in the neighbourhood of Moulsford and Wallingford becomes regularly fordable. Below this the common means of crossing seem to have been the bridge at Staines (*Pontes*), and at Bray, where a small Roman fort guards that passage, which was in common use till the erection of Maidenhead Bridge diverted the traffic, Streatley was no doubt, as its name would suggest, a place of roads; but in the various tracks which converge there, nothing distinctly Roman is traceable. Above this *fords* become frequent and, especially opposite Dorchester, Roman remains abound. At Long Wittenham a cemetery has been opened, and something like a Romano-British village is being now excavated. In this part of the county Sutton Courtney and Abingdon have yielded odds and ends, while away from the river

there is a pottery at Sunningwell, and a villa at Frilford, unearthed in 1885, together with other foundations and a cemetery. Next to the Thames, the most important highway is the great western road, which ran from London to Bath, *viâ* Staines, Silchester, Speen, and Marlborough. Under the title of the Devil's Highway this road is for miles the southern boundary of Berkshire, and on its track occurs a small settlement at Wickham Bushes, Easthampstead. Silchester itself is in Hampshire (though the treasures found there adorn Reading Museum), but the amphitheatre and cemetery of the town, with many of the numerous earthworks belonging to the *oppidum*, are in Berks. W. of Silchester the road cannot be exactly traced. The Impstone, a well-known landmark, is very likely a truncated milestone, originally scored with the usual imperial inscription. Brimpton Church, with its Roman brick, cannot have been far off the line. Of the settlement at Speen (*Spinis*) no real vestige remains, but here the road forks—one branch following the Lambourn valley towards Cirencester, the other keeping to the Kennet towards Hungerford. The former, called the Baydon Way, passes a district teeming with antiquities—villas at Lambourn, Shefford, Wyfield, and Wickham, and a hoard of 800 coins at Boxford being perhaps the most notable finds. The main road towards Hungerford passes through an unproductive area. To the N. and W. of Speen, near the Didcot and Newbury Railway, trackways run towards Dorchester, Streatley, and Wallingford, which, like the Ridgeway and Portway, on the shoulder and foot of White Horse Hill, are of unknown antiquity. In no place is there evidence of Roman work in the making of these ways ; but villas at Marlstone, Beche Farm, Frilsham, and Hampstead Norris, together with one at Woolstone on the Portway, make it probable that all or most of these routes were known to the conquerors. The same conclusion as to a track from Bray towards Reading is supported by the foundations at the two Walthams and the villa at Weycock. It is probable that a thoroughfare quitted the N. gate of Silchester, and the line of it may possibly be preserved in the modern highway from Theale to Pangbourne, leading to miscellaneous discoveries at the latter village, and a villa cut by the Great Western Railway at Basildon.

Churches, Etc.

Setting aside the magnificent Perpendicular chapel of Windsor Castle, Berkshire possesses neither cathedral, conventual, nor first-grade parish church. It could once boast of two great Benedictine abbeys—Abingdon with a church nearly 450 ft. long, and Reading with one over 500 ft., that ranked among the very largest of English cathedrals. Reading was, moreover, a mitred abbey, and its abbot was inferior only in precedence to those of Glastonbury and St. Albans. At Reading practically nothing remains except

some exceedingly uninteresting cores of walls; at Abingdon are to be seen parts of the abbot's house, and some domestic buildings (recently rendered much more accessible), but there is no trace of the church. Abingdon (St. Helen), Newbury, Faringdon, and Wantage have fine town churches; Shottesbrooke is a Decorated building of exceptional beauty; Lambourn and Buckland are Transitional and spacious. Much of interest will be found at Childrey, Sparsholt, West Hanney, Charney, Stanford Dingley, Ashbury, Drayton, Warfield, Uffington, Hagbourne, North Moreton, and Blewbury. The very small early Norman churches of Upton and Padworth have been maltreated in modern times. The churches nearest London are for the most part exceedingly uninteresting, and as a county Berkshire churches have suffered more perhaps than those of any other at the hands of "restorers."

"It is surely a lamentable proof," says Clarke, the Berkshire historian, "of the very little care and attention paid to these edifices during the last century and a half, that so many of the most precious ornaments which escaped the reforming mobs of the 16th and 17th centuries should have suffered destruction from mere negligence in a later and perfectly tranquil period." Since Clarke's day the evil has grown, chiefly through the deplorable archæological ignorance of the clergy; and it is not too much to say that the Oxford revival of Gothic has wrought more havoc with church fabrics in Berkshire than did Reformation and Rebellion together. Brasses are fairly common, though there are none of exceptional merit. Low-side windows are rarer than in Oxfordshire. There are round towers at Welford and West Shefford.

Of castles little enough remains except Windsor. Of Aldworth and Beaumyss (seats of the de la Beches) nothing is left save the moated enclosure of the latter. At Donnington the great gateway stands; at Wallingford the earthworks are fairly perfect; but Newbury is a mere name, while Brightwell, Reading, and Faringdon probably owed their origin to the civil wars of Stephen and the Empress, and were destroyed as Adulterine when peace was restored.

In mediæval or Elizabethan houses Berkshire is not rich, and compares unfavourably in this respect with Oxfordshire. Appleton, Sutton, East Hendred, Ockwells, Ufton, and the gallant Elizabethan house at Shaw are most interesting. But in its modern residences, and in the number and great beauty of its parks (many stocked with deer), it excels any other shire in England of its size.

Few, indeed, of the old families survive. Fuller, in his "Worthies," laments that "the gentry of Berkshire, sown thick in former ages, come up thin in latter. May they in future be better settled in their saddles, so that the sweet places in the county may not be subject to so many mutations." Clarke writes: "Of late years the history of many parishes consists

merely of a dry enumeration of successive purchasers," and the process still goes on.

The following is a fairly complete list of the various conventual institutions, hospitals, etc., existing in Berkshire previous to the Dissolution (fuller information is given in the text):—

Conventual Institutions.

Benedictine.
Abingdon Abbey.
Bromhale (nunnery).
Bisham (refounded 1536–9 as a B. mitred abbey).
Hurley Priory.
Reading (mitred abbey).
Wallingford Priory.

Augustinian.
Bisham (1338—1536).
Poughley.
Sandleford.

Cistercian.
Faringdon.

Franciscan.
Reading Friary.

Carthusian.
East Hendred.

Trinitarians.
Donnington.

Dominicans.
Steventon.

Templars.
Bisham (till 132–).
Templeton (Kintbury parish).
Brimpton. (Templeton and Brimpton, became afterwards Hospitaller.)

Hospitallers.
Greenham.
Shalford.

Hospitals.

Abingdon (St. Helen).
Abingdon (St. John).
Donnington.
Fyfield.
Hungerford.
Lambourn.
Newbury.
Reading (St. Lawrence).
Reading (St. John).
Reading (St. Mary Magdalene).
Wallingford.

Colleges.

Windsor.
Shottesbrook.
Wallingford.

Monastic Granges.

Cumnor,
Chieveley (Prior's Court),
Sutton Courtney,
} to Abingdon.
Charney.
Bere Court,
Bucklebury,
Cholsey,
} to Reading.
Shaw (The Grange), to Waverley.
Kintbury (Barton Court), to Amesbury.
Great Coxwell, to Beaulieu

Walking and Cycling.

Pedestrians and cyclists will find information regarding the levels and surfaces of the roads at the beginning of the various Routes.

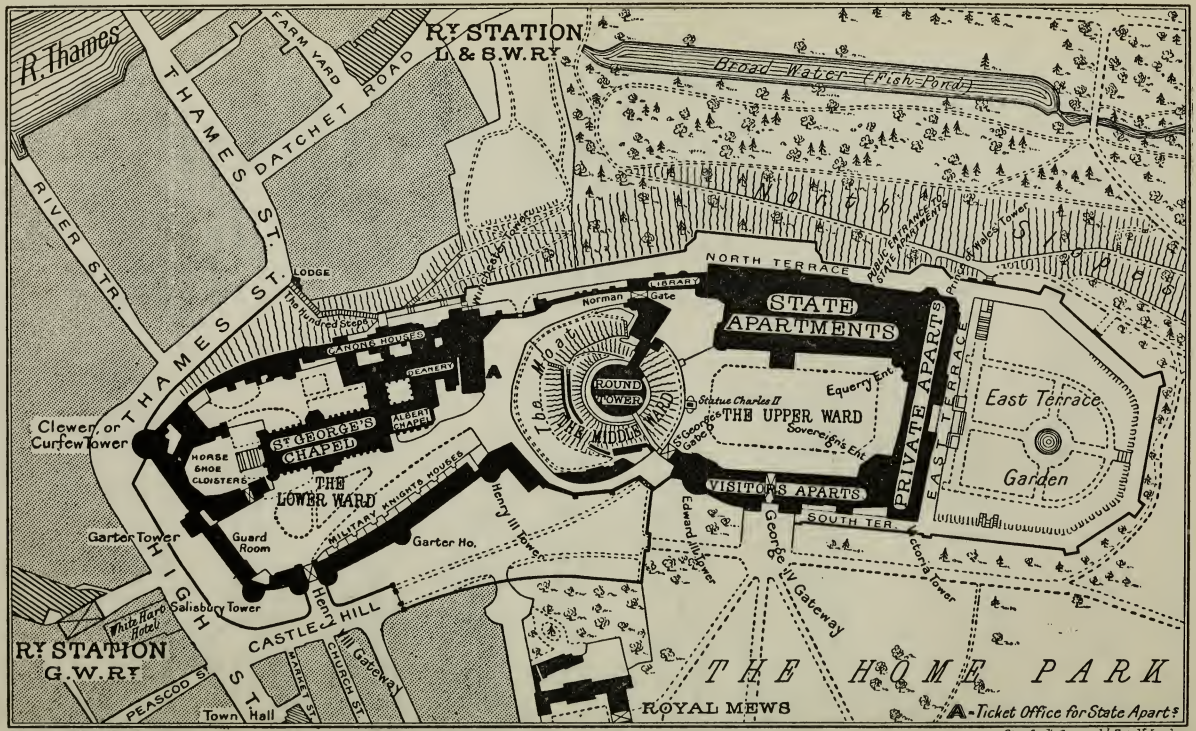
HANDBOOK

FOR

BERKSHIRE.

ROUTES.

*** The names of places are printed in **black** only in those routes where they are described.



PLAN OF WINDSOR CASTLE.

ROUTE 1.

WINDSOR

✠ **WINDSOR** is easily reached from almost any part of London, either from Paddington, G.W.R. (about ¾ hour by fastest trains), or by the S.W.R. from Waterloo, through Richmond, Staines, and Datchet. The latter route is a little the longer (1 hour), but skirts the Thames and affords very fine views of the Castle and Home Park. Carriages and flys are to be had at either terminus.

Near the S.W. station at Windsor were burnt, in 1544, the "Windsor Martyrs," Testwood, Filmer, and Peerson. Their companion, Marbech, narrowly escaped, but Testwood courted his fate.

The town of Windsor, once called *Windlesore* from the winding river, stands on the right bank of the Thames, opposite Eton, and has for ages been famous for its Castle. It is an ancient borough, now returning one M.P. It is connected with Eton and Datchet by iron bridges, and is placed mainly on the S. and W. of the Castle, the curtain wall of which occupies the E. side of the High Street.

The **Church**, rebuilt in 1822, preserves a few monuments from an older building.

The **Town Hall**, a pleasantly characteristic building by Sir C. Wren, has, on the exterior, statues of Queen Anne and Prince George of Denmark, and in the hall portraits of sovereigns and others, some being the gift of George IV. It is said that the municipal authorities after the completion of this building had doubts as to its stability, and insisted that Wren should support the span of the first floor with additional pillars. The architect humoured them by building the pillars, but left a space between the tops of them and the roof.

Shakespeare's "Garter Inn" was in the High Street, on ground now acquired by the White Hart Hotel. Near the river, at the foot of the Hundred Steps, on the right, was a house, destroyed in 1860, supposed to have been that which Shakespeare had in his mind as the house of Mrs. Page, in the "Merry Wives of Windsor." This part of the town, then called "Windsor Underowre," was formerly the property of the Abbot of Reading, The only memorial of this possession is in the Abbot's Pile, a wooden pile on the Eton bank of the Thames, near Tangier Mill, which marks the extent of the Corporation fishing.

There are some beautiful 17th-cent. houses in Church Street between the Vicarage and Town Hall; but they are deplorably neglected, and commonplace building has supplanted many old houses in High Street which had tiled roofs and excellent interiors. The last good house (with cedars), in Peascod Street, has been destroyed, and few suburbs are less attractive than those which have grown up round this splendid mediæval centre.

A public house in Peascod Street, called the Duke's Head, derives its name from having been the house of Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. Thither Charles II. used to come from the Castle, and thence they used to walk together to Filberts,

the house of Nell Gwynn. At the foot of Castle Hill, opposite the S.W.R. station, are the buildings of Travers College, where lived the Naval Knights of Windsor, until the modern spirit disbanded them. The site of the lodgings where Miss Burney, when in attendance on the court, wrote her graphic sketches of life at Windsor, is conjectured to be near the present stables.

The bridge connecting Windsor with Eton commands a fine view of the Castle. An even more striking view is to be had from the clump of elms in the Brocas meadow on the Eton side of the river. But the most characteristic and mediæval impression was formerly obtained from the far end of the departure platform of the old G.W.R. station, until the group of admirably built red houses was disfigured by corrugated iron and lofty new erections. Not less remarkable are the more distant views from the high ground of Bishopsgate (Great Park) and Cranbourne Tower, whence the proud Keep of Windsor, as it is described by Burke, is seen rising above a carpet of forest trees.

WINDSOR CASTLE.—Adjoining the S.W. station in Thames Street is an approach to the Castle, called the Hundred Steps, by which access is gained to the Lower Ward. They are somewhat fatiguing to ascend.

Hints to Visitors.—The State Apartments of Windsor Castle are open gratuitously to the public, during the absence of the Court, "on such days and at such hours as His Majesty may be graciously pleased to appoint" (see "Index and Directory" under "WINDSOR CASTLE"). Three hours are hardly enough to see the Castle, the State Apartments, the Albert Memorial Chapel, St. George's Chapel, and the N. Terrace. The latter should be visited for the sake of its splendid prospect. The circuit of the Three Terraces, which gives a view of the sunk garden in front of the Private Apartments, should also be made whenever possible.

Windsor was the property of Edward the Confessor, who, "for the hope of eternal reward, for the remission of all his sins, the sins of his father, mother and ancestors, and to the praise of God," gave it to the Abbey of Westminster; but William the Conqueror, "being enamoured of the pleasant situation of the place, first built several little lodges in the forest for the "Convenience of hunting"; and at last, justly estimating the commanding situation of the hill, obtained it in exchange for some lands in Essex, and built a Norman Castle on the height, which Henry I. added to.

From his reign to the present time, Windsor Castle has been the frequent residence of the sovereign; and many great councils of the realm have been held within its walls. Henry I. married here, in 1122, his second wife, Adeliza, when the Archbishop of Canterbury was so furious at the Bishop of Salisbury putting on the crown of the new Queen, "that he could hardly be entreated by the lords to refrain from striking off that of the King." Here Henry II., as Fabyan narrates, caused an old eagle to be painted on the walls, with four smaller birds, of which three tore its body and the fourth pecked out its eyes, and when asked its meaning, he said, "These betoken my four sons, which cease not to pursue my death, especially my youngest son John." John frequently resided here, and hence his grant of Magna Charta at Runnymede. Here many children were born to the royal Henrys and Edwards,

the greatest of whom (afterwards Edward III., born Nov. 13, 1312), hence derived his appellation of Edward of Windsor.

In this Castle, in 1349, according to Froissart, he founded the Order of the Garter, so named in compliment to the Countess of Salisbury; and in 1349 feasted the knights at the round table in his new-built tower on the mound. After converting the old fortress into a residence for the Castle officers and for the dean and canons of the church, he built a new palace higher up the hill to the E. for his own use, under the superintendence of William of Wykeham. Two captive kings, David II. of Scotland and John of France, were here entertained; and here James I. of Scotland was confined when he wrote the "King's Quhair," and fell in love with his future wife, Joan Beaufort, walking in the gardens below the Round Tower. Edward the Black Prince married the Fair Maid of Kent in the Castle chapel. Here, also, the aged king sorrowed over the deathbed of Philippa, the "good Queen of England," a scene touchingly described by Froissart. Here was the sad parting of Richard II. and his Queen Isabella (then only 11 years old), described by Froissart: "After the canons had chanted very sweetly (in the chapel), and the king himself had chanted a collect and made his offerings, he took the Queen in his arms and kissed her twelve or thirteen times, saying sorrowfully, 'Adieu, madame, until we meet again.' And the Queen began to weep, saying, 'Alas! my lord, will you leave me here?' Upon which the king's eyes filled with tears, and he said, 'By no means, *mamye*; but I will go first, and you, *ma chère*, shall come there afterwards.' Then the king and queen partook of wine and comfits at the Deanery, and all who chose did the same. Afterwards the king stooped down and took and lifted the queen from the ground, and held her a long while in his arms, and kissed her at least ten times, saying over, 'Adieu, *ma chère*, until we meet again'; and then placed her on the ground and kissed her at least twice more; and, by our Lady, I never saw so great a lord make so much of, or show such affection to a lady, as did King Richard to his queen. Great pity it was that they separated, for they never saw each other more."

At Windsor was born Henry VI., contrary to the wishes of his father, who is said to have prophesied—

"I, Henry, born at Monmouth,
Shall small time reign and much get;
But Henry of Windsor shall reign long
and lose all,"—

and to Windsor his body was, in 1484, moved from Chertsey Abbey, and buried in the opposite aisle to the tomb of his enemy Edward IV., who was the first of the kings to be laid there.

Of all that took place when Philip of Castile visited Henry VII. in the Castle, a careful account is preserved in the Cottonian MSS. The earlier part of Henry VIII.'s life was spent here, and here the poet Earl of Surrey wrote and died.

It was a favourite residence of Elizabeth, and the burial-place of Charles I., whose body was brought from the Dean's Hall by Bishop Juxon and four noblemen, and buried as best they might: "The Prayer Book being forbidden then, and the snow falling on the pall, thus went the white king to his grave."

Here Anne received the news of Blenheim; and here she lost the little Duke of Gloucester, the only one of her children who had seemed likely to live.

Of the life of George III. we have a description in the diary of Madame d'Arblay, which repeoples

the Castle with historic personages. George IV.'s alterations will be noticed in their place.

It was at Windsor that Napoleon III. and his Empress visited Queen Victoria, and that the Prince Consort died; and indeed, in spite of the quieter attractions of Balmoral and Osborne, there were few of the joys or sorrows of the life of Queen Victoria which were not witnessed by these walls.

The Castle was much altered by George IV., under Wyatt, who was knighted, and changed his name to Wyattville. Wyatt professed to preserve the general features of the ancient fortress, and yet to adapt them to the requirements of modern comfort; but the lover of history must regret that the Castle, added to by so many kings, and presenting memorials of so many ages, should be reduced to a state of uniformity. It had, however, been much more maltreated before, and the added height of the Round Tower is a work not less effective than skilful. The filling up of the Castle ditch was very disastrous, but above, the skyline is varied and picturesque, and Wyatt is not to be blamed too severely for effacing mediæval detail for which little respect was shown before his age, or is shown now.

It may be useful, before entering upon a general description, to note the age of the several buildings that yet remain,

It is at its W. extremity only that the Castle of the 13th cent. has in any degree maintained its original aspect. The N.W. tower (**Clewer Tower,** corrupted into Cæsar's) has been used as a belfry and clock-house probably from the time of Edward III. Norden's view (temp. James I.) represents it with the cupola very nearly in the same state as it appeared until the deplorable and un-English alterations made in 1872. The lower or prison story has remained intact from its foundation. It consists of a chamber 22 ft. in diameter, vaulted on plain massive stone ribs; the walls 12½ ft. thick, with arched recesses terminating in loop-holes. The whole is constructed of chalk, faced and arched with freestone, and is an interesting and perfect specimen of the period; but it has often been refaced.

Henry II. — Foundations and lower story of S. side of Upper Ward from Devil's Tower to Victoria Tower.

Henry III.—The outer walls of the Lower Ward, including the Salisbury and Garter Towers (restored), and the Clewer Tower. The wall of the S. ambulatory of the Dean's Cloister, with its E.E. arcade. The door behind the altar in St. George's Chapel, which is the W. door of the chapel of Henry III.'s palace. The remains of the Domus Regis on the end of the chapel, included in the house of one of the canons, and the King's Hall, now the Chapter Library.

Edward III. — The Gate-house, an old Norman gate, rebuilt by Henry III. and afterwards by Edward III., N. of the Keep or Round Tower. The Round Tower, in which the woodwork of his time remains supporting the existing principal floor. The groining of the Devil's Tower, and the Rose Tower. The Dean's Cloister. The Servants' Hall under the State Apartments, which retain their groined vaults.

Edward IV.—St. George's Chapel; the arcade in the aisles, with their groined vaults, and the Horseshoe or Fetter-lock cloisters.

Henry VII.—The splendid groined vault of the nave of St. George's. The Tudor buildings on N. side, now a portion of the Royal Library, and the S. and E. walls of the Tomb-house.

Henry VIII.—The groined vault of the choir of St. George's. The casing of the W. or outer gateway.

Elizabeth.—The Royal Library. and buildings on the W. part of the N. Terrace.

The Castle consists of two great divisions, the Lower and the Upper Ward, separated by the Round Tower or Keep. Access is allowed by the Hundred Steps, by Henry VIII.'s Gateway, or by St. George's Gate, to all the Cloisters, the North Terrace, and to all parts of the Castle except the quadrangle of the Upper Ward.

Proceeding from the railway stations by the High Street, the visitor will have on his right the Town Hall and Boehm's bronze Jubilee statue of Queen Victoria, and will see before him at the top of the hill the iron gates which form the King's entrance. They lead to St. George's Gate, which gives access to the Upper Ward (*post*). On his left will be the principal entrance by the archway called, from its building, Henry VIII.'s Gateway, flanked by two octagonal towers; the moat and ditch have been filled up. This gateway leads into the **Lower Ward**, where, on the rt., is the long low line of houses appropriated to the Military Knights, with the Garter Hall Tower of their Governor in the centre, and beyond this Henry III.'s Tower. On the l. is the Salisbury Tower, with the Military Guard-room; the Garter Tower; and the gateway which leads to the Horseshoe Cloisters, where are the houses of the minor canons and lay clerks of the chapel.

Opposite Henry VIII.'s Gateway is **St. George's Chapel.** Slightly to the E. of its site a chapel had been built by Henry I., and dedicated to Edward the Confessor; this was rebuilt by Edward III., re-dedicated to St. George, the patron of his newly-founded Order of the Garter, and ultimately made way for the present chapel in the latter part of the 15th cent.

The mass of the existing chapel was built in the reign of Edward IV., the stone roof of the nave, which was of wood before, being added by Henry VII., and that of the choir by Henry VIII.

The building is 232 ft. long by 66 ft. broad; transept, 104 ft. The nave is of seven bays, the choir of six, with an E. ambulatory and N. and S. aisles. There are six chapels thus arranged:—S.W., Lady Chapel, or Beaufort Chapel; N.W., Urswick Chapel; N., Rutland Chapel, also the Hastings Chantry; S.E., Lincoln Chapel; S., King's (or Aldworth) Chapel, Braye Chapel, and the Oxenbridge Chantry.

There is no more perfect specimen of Perpendicular work. By the use of flying buttresses the wall plate has been reduced to little more than frame for the windows; and these, from the flatness of their arches, nearly fill each interval. The interior is therefore as light as a lantern, and the beautiful white glass of the nave, being as yet undimmed by staining, adds much to the effect. Inside no portion is left unornamented; the walls are covered with a delicate panelling of Gothic work, and the ribs of the columns spread over the roof in rich tracery, adorned with painted coats-of-arms of the Knights of the Garter, and with the "Rose en soleil." the well-known cognizance of Edward IV. The usual entrance is by the S. porch, beside which notice a small *Brass*, let into the wall, in honour of George Brook, yeoman of the guard to four of the Tudors, with this inscription—

"He lyved content with meane estate,
And long ago prepared to dye;
The idle parson he did hate:
Poor people's wants he did supply."

The great W. window occupies the whole end of the nave, and contains some ancient stained glass collected from various parts of the chapel, supplemented by bad modern work. The side windows, by *West*, have been removed. On the l. is the richly-painted Lady Chapel, or *Beaufort Chapel*, containing two monuments of that family: one, an altar-tomb, to the founder, Charles Somerset, Earl of Worcester (d. 1526); the other, supported by Corinthian pillars, to Henry, 1st Duke of Beaufort (d. 1699). The Marquis of Worcester (d. 1646), author of the "Century of Inventions," and the faithful friend of Charles I., for whom he defended Raglan Castle, is buried here without a monument. Opposite, on the rt., is the Urswick Chapel, so called from Dean Christopher Urswick (d. 1505). Here, in a theatrical light, is the monument of the Princess Charlotte, executed by *C. Wyatt*, from public subscriptions; her beatified spirit is represented rising from the couch upon which her corpse is lying, while an angel bears the dead baby. To make room for this a fine stone screen was removed to the S. aisle.

Nearly opposite the Beaufort Chapel, and between two of the pillars of the nave, is a monument erected by the late Queen to the memory of her father, the Duke of Kent. It consists of a white marble recumbent figure of the Duke, by *Boehm*, resting on an alabaster sarcophagus, designed by *Scott*. In the S.E. corner of the nave there is a statue, by *Boehm*, of Leopold I., King of the Belgians, Queen Victoria's uncle.

Beneath the modern organ-screen the visitor enters the Choir, where the richness of the architecture and splendour of the dark carved oak, of the time of Henry VII., is increased by the effect of the swords, helmets, banners, and mantles of the Knights of the Garter, suspended over the stalls. Here the installation ceremonies of the Order have been performed ever since their first celebration on St. George's Day, 1349.

The stalls of the Sovereign and princes of the blood are under the organ; next come those of foreign sovereigns. The brass plates at the back of the stalls bear the names, arms, and dates of former knights, forming a unique collection of English brasses and enamel, in which the large and gaudy plates of the present century contrast ill with the richer and more fanciful work of older time. (They have been fully treated of by W. H. St. John Hope, F.S.A.) Observe that in some of the helmets are dummy wooden heads (lately discovered), possibly portraits of early officials. One or two are left uncovered and in view. Among the plates are those of the Emperors Sigismund and Charles V., Francis I. of France, and Casimir IV. of Poland, who all belonged to the Order, which, Denham declares—

> "Foreign kings and emperors esteem
> The second honour to their diadem."

Lord Burleigh and the Earl of Surrey are among the illustrious members commemorated here. The Dean of Windsor is ex-officio Treasurer of the Order.

In the centre of the choir is a stone bearing the names of those who are interred in the *Royal Vault* beneath. Here Queen Jane Seymour was buried (1537), with the epitaph by Bishop Godwin—

> "Phœnix Jana jacet nato Phœnice dolendum
> Secula Phœnices nulla tulisse duas,"

which has been translated by his son Morgan Godwin:—

> "Here a Phœnix lieth, whose death
> To another Phœnix gave breath;
> It is to be lamented much,
> The world at once ne'er knew two such."

Here, in 1547, Henry VIII. was

buried, by his own desire, "by his true and loving wife, Queen Jane." The tomb which he ordered for himself, and which is minutely described by Speed, with its "quire of XX. Angels," and innumerable other figures, was never put up. Charles I. was also buried here "in silence and sorrow, his pall white with the snow which fell upon it in its passage to the chapel, Feb. 8, 1649, without any service, as the Governor would not allow Bishop Juxon to bury the King after the service of the Church of England; neither would the lords allow of his way. There was therefore nothing read at the grave, though the Bishop's lips were observed to move." Charles II., from motives that are variously stated by Clarendon and others, professed a difficulty in finding the place of burial; but in 1813 the coffin was discovered and opened. Sir H. Halford, who was present, describes the complexion of the face as dark and discoloured. The shape of the face was a long oval. The hair was thick at the back of the head, and nearly black; that of his beard was of a reddish-brown. "On holding up the head, the muscles of the neck had evidently contracted considerably, and the fourth cervical vertebra was cut through transversely, leaving the substance of the divided portions smooth and even: an appearance which could only have been produced by a heavy blow from a very sharp instrument, and which furnished the last proof wanting to identify Charles I."

On this occasion the bone so described was sacrilegiously purloined; but was replaced later by the then Prince of Wales. The tomb of Henry VIII. was opened at the same time, when, as a bitter epigram declared, he looked—

"Much like a butcher, only somewhat paler."

Compare Byron's savage lines—

"Where headless Charles by heartless Harry lies," etc.

A few steps farther E., below the first step leading to the altar, is the entrance to a second *Royal Vault* (constructed beneath Wolsey's Tomb-house by George III.), where are buried—

Prince Octavius and Prince Alfred, children of George III., removed from Westminster Abbey.
Augusta, Duchess of Brunswick, sister of George III.
Princess Charlotte and Princess Elizabeth, children of the Duke of Clarence (afterwards William IV.).

Princess Amelia	d. Nov. 2, 1810
Princess Charlotte	d. Nov. 6, 1818
Queen Charlotte	d. Nov. 17, 1810
Duke of Kent	d. Jan. 23, 1827
George III.	d. Jan. 29, 1820
Duke of York	d. Jan. 5, 1827
George IV.	d. June 26, 1830
William IV.	d. June 20, 1837
Princess Augusta	d. Sept. 22, 1840
Queen Adelaide	d. Dec. 2, 1849
George V., King of Hanover	d. June 12, 1878

The funeral of the Duchess of Kent, mother of Queen Victoria, took place in St. George's Chapel, March 25, 1861, but in fulfilment of her own request, her body was afterwards removed to Frogmore. The Prince Consort was also buried here, Dec. 23, 1861, but his remains also have been removed (*post*). No person is allowed to enter the royal vault without the permission of the Lord Chamberlain. The coffins of the kings are covered with crimson, the others with purple velvet. The vault is surrounded by recesses, formed by Gothic octagonal columns: each recess containing a range of four shelves, for the reception of the coffins.

The E. window of the Chapel was

filled till lately by a semi-opaque picture of the Resurrection by *West*, to admit which much of the ancient tracery was removed. This has now been restored and the apertures filled with stained glass by the Dean and Chapter, as a memorial of the Prince Consort. The lower compartments represent "the acts of a good prince." The reredos, by *Philip*, was designed by *Scott*. It may be doubted whether the somewhat commonplace Gothic produces so solemn an effect as the more sombre picture and transparency of the old arrangement.

On the l. of the altar is the Gothic iron screen for the tomb of King Edward IV., supposed to be the work of *Quentin Matsys*. Its elaborate tracery is one of the finest products of the hammer existing, and merits minute inspection. Here hung the king's coat-of-mail, and his surcoat of crimson velvet, embroidered with pearls, rubies, and gold, which were carried off by the Parliamentarian soldiers when the chapel was defaced in 1643. Above the screen two oriel windows give light to the Royal closet or pew, occupied by the King and Queen when they attend divine service in this chapel. The view on looking back from this point is especially rich in colour.

On March 10, 1863, the marriage of King Edward VII. (then Prince of Wales) with the Princess Alexandra of Denmark was celebrated in this chapel; as was that of the Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne, March 21, 1871, of the Duke of Connaught to Princess Louise Margaret of Prussia, March 13, 1879, and of the Duke of Albany with Princess Helen of Waldeck in April 1882.

In making the circuit of the chapels, the first in the N. aisle is the *Rutland Chapel*, with a fine altar tomb of Sir George Manners (d. 1513), ancestor of the Rutland family, and his wife Anne (d. 1528), niece of Edward IV. The chapel was founded by her father, Sir Thomas St. Leger, in memory of his wife, Anne, Duchess of Exeter (d. 1476). He was beheaded in 1483 for conspiring against his brother-in-law, Richard III., but was allowed to be buried here, and the effigies of himself and his wife appear on a brass on the wall in heraldic dresses.

Proceeding E., notice on the l. a number of stained windows, which surround the choir, and are filled with portraits of royal personages, commencing with Edward III. and ending with William IV. and Queen Adelaide. On the r. is the *Hastings Chantry*, built by the widow of William, Lord Hastings, chamberlain of Edward IV., to contain his tomb. He was beheaded by Richard III. (1483), but afterwards allowed to be buried, "his body with his head," beside the tomb of his master; while the priest appointed to pray for his soul had a special house close to the N. door of the chapel. This chantry is dedicated to St. Stephen, whose life is represented in painting on the wall. On the r., near this, is the statue of Field-Marshal William, Earl Harcourt (1830), by *Sevier*. Farther, on the r., is the tomb of Edward IV., who was interred here, April 19, 1483, "with great funeral honour and heaviness of his people."

On a stone near are inscribed the names of two of his children (George, Duke of Bedford, and Mary), who died before him. His queen, Elizabeth Woodville, was buried (1492) by her children near the king, but with scant ceremony; her grave is within the choir. Beyond, on the r., is the monument of the Princess Louisa of Saxe-Weimar, niece of Queen Adelaide, who died at Windsor.

At the E. end of the N. aisle is the entrance to the *Chapter Room*, in which the sword of Edward III. is preserved, and where there is a full-length portrait of that monarch in his robes of state.

Turning into the S. aisle from E. to W., the first chapel on the left is the *Lincoln Chapel*, with a magnificent altar-tomb to the Earl of Lincoln (d. 1584), an eminent statesman in the time of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Elizabeth, under the last of which sovereigns he became Lord High Admiral. He is represented, with his countess, lying upon a mat, with their eight children beneath. The shrine of John Shorne was removed hither from North Marston, and the stained windows which once existed exhibited the history of his miracles ("John Shorne, gentleman born, conjured the devil into a boot"). Near this is the memorial niche of Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Salisbury (d. 1481). In the centre of the arch above he is represented kneeling with Edward IV. before a cross. Opposite is a niche where he ordered a Breviary to be placed, as the inscription tells, "to this intent, that priests and ministers of God's Church may here have the occupation thereof, saying therein their divine service, and for all other that listen to say thereby their devotion." The Breviary was replaced by a black-letter Bible, secured by a chain, at the Dissolution, but the niche is now empty.

A short distance west notice a black marble slab in the pavement; it marks the grave of Henry VI., whose body was removed hither from Chertsey by Richard III.

"Here o'er the martyr-king the marble weeps;
While fast beside him once-fear'd Edward sleeps . . .
The grave unites, where e'en the great find rest.
And blended lie th' oppressor and th' oppress."
POPE.

Stowe writes that, after his removal here, "the meek usurper" was worshipped by the name of the Holy King Henry, and his hat of red velvet was thought to heal the headache of such as put it on. Prayers to him were inserted in service-books of the early part of the 16th century.

Reformed opinions spread early among the canons and singing-men of the chapel. Foxe says that: "As Testwood chanced to walk in the church in the afternoon, and beheld the pilgrims, especially of Devon and Cornwall, how they came in by plumps with candles and images of wax in their hands, it pitied his heart to see such great idolatrie committed; and how easily the people spent their goods in coming so farre to kiss a spur and have an old hat set on their heads, insomuch that hee could not refraine, but went up to them, and, with all gentleness, began to exhort them to leave such false worshipping of dumb creatures."

Not satisfied with expostulation, Testwood is also said to have, with a key, knocked off the nose from a statue of the Virgin, and carried it in his pocket to show. He became one of the Windsor martyrs. Lambarde also tells how "Windsore was polluted with the evil worship of Holy King Henry (as they called him). The seely bewitched people gadded on pilgrimage, being persuaded that a small chippe of his bedstead (which was kept here) was a precious relique, and to put upon a man's heade an olde red velvet hatte of his (that lay theare) was a sovereign medecine against the headache."

Proceeding W., on the r. is a black marble stone, with a ducal coronet and the name "Charles Brandon." It covers the grave of the Duke of Suffolk (d. 1545), who married Mary, sister of Henry VIII., and widow of Louis XII. of France.

Farther west is the *Oxenbridge Chapel*, founded (1522) by a canon of that name. It is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and contains some pictures of the events of his life, with figures in the costume of Henry VIII. Near this is the screen removed from the Urswick Chapel, containing the monument of its founder, with a touching Latin epitaph.

Opposite is the beautiful little *King's* (or *Aldworth*) *Chapel*, so called from the monuments of that family which it contains. It is supposed to have been built by Oliver King, Bishop of Exeter (1492), afterwards (1495) translated to Bath and Wells, and builder of the Abbey Church at Bath. Here are the tombs of two children of his family: "Dorothy King (1630), lent to her parents, but speedilie required againe"; and "William King (1633), being soon wearie of his abode on earth, left his parents to preserve a memorial of him, after 10 weeks' pilgrimage." The stained windows above this part of the aisle represent the Coronation of William III., and Queen Anne presenting her Bounty to the Bishops. On the r. are portraits on panels of Edward IV., Edward V., and Henry VII., with an inscription beseeching prayers for the soul of their Secretary, Bishop Oliver King.

Beyond is a monument by *Sir G. G. Scott*, which, as the inscription tells, "was erected by Queen Victoria as a tribute of respect and affection to her beloved aunt, Mary Duchess of Gloucester, A.D. 1859." On the same tomb are commemorated other members of the royal house of Gloucester—viz., William Henry Duke of Gloucester, 1805; Maria Duchess of Gloucester, 1807; Princess Maria Matilda of Gloucester, 1775; William Frederick Duke of Gloucester, 1834; Princess Sophia Matilda of Gloucester, 1844.

Near the S. door is the *Braye Chapel*, founded (temp. Henry VII.) by Sir Reginald Braye (d. 1502), who built the beautiful roof of the nave, and is buried here without a tomb. The chapel is painted with brayes for flax, in allusion to his name; and the fetter-lock, his badge, or that of Edward of Windsor, is said to have suggested the plan of the horseshoe cloisters. It contains the font, and monuments to Thomson, Bishop of Gloucester, 1612; Brideoak, Bishop of Chichester, 1678 (both were Deans of Windsor); the learned Dr. Waterland, 1740; and Canon Hallam (father of the historian), 1824. A monument to the memory of the Prince Imperial, who was killed in South Africa during the Zulu war, was placed in this chapel by permission of Queen Victoria, in May 1881. It consists of a recumbent figure of the Prince in white marble, by *Boehm*.

The number of relics of English saints which enriched St. George's Chapel before the Reformation is worthy of notice. It contained bones of SS. Osyth, Richard, David, Margaret of Scotland, Thomas of Hereford, William of England, William of York, and Thomas of Canterbury, and the offerings at their altars gave it great wealth of jewels, chalices, etc. Much of this, of course, was lost at the Reformation, and the building itself suffered terrible maltreatment at the hands of the Parliamentarians. Christopher Wren, the father of the architect, was then dean; but he was driven out, and died in comparative penury. Clarendon almost incidentally gives us an idea of the havoc made, when speaking of the funeral of Charles I. The Duke of Richmond and others, he says, by permission "went into the church to make choice of a place for burial. But when they had entered into it, which they had

been so well acquainted with, they found it so altered and transformed —all tombs, inscriptions, and those landmarks pulled down, by which all men knew every particular place in that church—and such a dismal mutation over the whole, that they knew not where they were." After the funeral, the governor, Colonel Whichcot, "took the keys of the church, which was seldom put to any use." Bruno Ryves, the first dean after the Restoration, laboured zealously to repair the damage done; but, as Rickman remarks, all the modern work is merely a slavish copy of certain detached parts, and so contrasts unfavourably with the compositions of the ancient architects.

Some of the woodwork, however, represents current events—as for instance, on the back of the substalls the attempt on King George III.'s life by Margaret Catchpole in London—and is not only well managed, but is an unusual instance of the right use of the art.

To the E. of St. George's Chapel, and separated by a passage, where the cornice, worked with H. and E. tied with a love knot, marks the date of the union of Henry VII. and Elizabeth of York, is the entrance to the *Royal Tomb-house*, beneath the **Albert Memorial Chapel**, formerly known as the *Wolsey Chapel*. This Chapel was built by Henry VII., who intended it for the burial-place of the Tudors before building his chapel in Westminster Abbey. It was granted by Henry VIII. to Wolsey, who there began a splendid monument for himself, composed of black and white marble, with brazen column, candlesticks, etc. It is said Benedetti received 4250 ducats for the portion which he finished, and that the expenses of the gilding had already exceeded £380. The unfinished tomb was seized by the Parliament in 1646, and the ornaments were sold by Colonel Venn, governor of Windsor Castle, as "old brass" for £600. The black marble sarcophagus was allowed to lie neglected, till used for its present purpose as the covering of Nelson's tomb in St. Paul's Cathedral. In the reign of James II. *Verrio* was employed to paint the ceiling of the Tomb-house; and mass was performed there, which led to its being defaced by the populace. After this it remained untouched till its partial restoration (under *Wyatt*) in 1800 by George III., who constructed the vault beneath it, in which he and his family are buried. On the death of the Prince Consort Queen Victoria caused the chapel to be converted into a splendid memorial under the direction of *Sir G. G. Scott*. Accordingly the walls were panelled with "marble pictures" by Baron *Triqueti*; medallion portraits of the Royal Family were executed by Miss Durant, the windows were filled with stained glass by Clayton and Bell, the roof was covered with mosaic by Salviati, and the floor inlaid with rare marbles. The altar is a slab of Levanto marble, and the reredos is inlaid with lapis lazuli, malachite, alabaster, and porphyry. The effect is costly rather than harmonious, and the marble pictures are hardly successful, but the whole work is a noble effort of art-patronage.

In the nave in front of the altar are three altar-tombs. One is a magnificent cenotaph by Baron *Triqueti*, upon which reposes a figure of the Prince Consort in white marble. The body of the altar-tomb rests upon a great slab of black and gold Tuscan marble; the corners are supported by angels; and statuettes in niches adorn the sides. Another is the tomb of Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, by *Boehm*.

An altar-tomb, by *Mr. Alfred Gilbert*, with grilles of bold metal work, in which aluminium is used, combined with enamels and statuettes, is being erected by His Majesty King Edward VII. to the memory of the Duke of Clarence.

Behind the Albert Chapel are the beautiful **Dean's Cloisters**, built by Edward II. Here the S. wall is interesting, as being a fragment of the ancient Chapel of Henry III., preserved, and adapted to its present purpose, when the rest of the chapel (which occupied part of the site now filled by the cloisters) was destroyed. The details of the carving on the ancient capitals are very curious; and within the first arch is a relic of mural painting, for the promotion of which Henry III. was so remarkable — namely, a crowned portrait of that monarch himself, discovered behind the plaster in 1859. Part of the picture was destroyed; but the head remains intact, and a deed of 1248 is still extant, for payment to be made to William the monk of Westminster for the execution of this very painting. The projecting window on the opposite side of the cloister is interesting, as being that of the room once occupied by Anne Boleyn.

Behind the Dean's we come to the **Canons' Cloisters.** Here is the entrance to the Hundred Steps; whence a flight of 122 steps, issuing from an ancient sallyport, open from sunrise to sunset, communicates with the lower part of the town.

A passage on the l. leads, by the beautiful E. E. doorway of Henry III., to the N. side of the chapel, where several of the Canons' houses are situated. In one of these Henry Hallam was born, in 1777. In the outer wall of a neighbouring house the Domus Regis of Henry III. is still to be traced. Orders still extant (given to Walter de Burgh, 24th Henry III.) for constructing rooms for the King and Queen's use, exactly tally with the traces of those apartments still existing. In pulling down the other walls of this building many fragments of an earlier construction were discovered, which perhaps belonged to the original castle of the Conqueror, but had been enclosed and lost sight of in the building of Henry III.

The **Horseshoe Cloisters,** restored by Sir G. G. Scott from its former mean appearance to a very attractive likeness of an old Tudor building, fronts the west end of St. George's. A cross is erected at the N.W. corner to the memory of Prince Theodore, son of the King of Abyssinia. Over the adjacent parapet there is an impressive view of the town. The choir house has been very prettily restored in brick and timber.

Retracing our steps, and passing the Albert Chapel, we come to the **Deanery,** built by Dean Christopher Urswick, 1500, and bearing his arms and name. It superseded the old Deanery, at which occurred the sad leave-taking between Richard II. and his Queen Isabella.

Behind the Deanery is the **Winchester Tower,** once the residence of the great prelate and architect William of Wykeham, who built it, as announced by the ingeniously ambiguous inscription, "Hoc fecit Wykeham" (*ante*). It was afterwards the abode of Sir J. Wyattville, the more modern architect of the the Castle.

Just beyond the Deanery, on the l., is the **Lord Chamberlain's office,**

where tickets to view the State Apartments can be obtained.

Between the Upper and Lower Wards stands the **Round Tower,** or Keep of the Castle (formerly called *La Rose*), planted by Edward III. on the summit of a lofty artificial mound, and surmounted, when the sovereign resides here, by the Royal Standard of England. At other times the Union Jack is now hoisted. This was the residence of the Governor or Castellan, to whose care distinguished state prisoners were entrusted. John, King of France, taken at Crecy, was confined in King John's Tower; and David, King of Scotland, taken at Neville's Cross, in the tower connected with it by the wall at the S.W. of the Upper Ward, which wall is said to have been built in order to enable the royal prisoners to communicate more easily. Here also James I. of Scotland was long detained by Henry IV. and Henry V.; and hence in the time of Henry VIII. the gallant Earl of Surrey gazed down from the grated windows upon the fair Geraldine, and composed sonnets to her in his cell. Under the Commonwealth, too, it had many unwilling inmates. The last prisoner of state was the Maréchal de Belleisle, captured while crossing the territory of Hanover in the reign of George II. The most distinguished governor of this tower was Prince Rupert, who filled the office after the Restoration. Evelyn described how he "trimmed up the keep and handsomely adorned his hall with furniture of arms," and how "the huge steep stairs were invested with this martial furniture, so disposed as to represent festoons, without any confusion, trophy-like; while his bedchamber and ample rooms, hung with tapestry, curious and effeminate pictures, were extremely different from the other, which presented nothing but war and horror." All is now modernised. A flight of 150 stone steps leads into the interior. It is worth ascending them in clear weather to enjoy the view, which is said to extend over twelve counties. The tower was raised 39 ft., and the flag-turret added by *Wyattville.* In the centre is a bell, cast at Moscow and weighing nearly 17½ cwt., which was taken from Sebastopol in 1855. The *Garden* at the foot of the keep is gay with flowers disposed in various fanciful devices, as the Star of the Garter, etc. It was whilst walking in this "pleasaunce" that James I. of Scotland, so long a captive here (1405-24), wooed successfully Lady Jane Beaufort, niece of the Cardinal, and daughter of the deceased Earl of Somerset, whom he took back with him as his wife on his return to Scotland. His poem, called the "King's Quhair" (or book), describes the garden:

"Now there was made, fast by the tower's wall,
A garden fair, and in the corners set
An arbour green, with wandes long and small
Rail'd about; and so with leaves beset
Was all the place, and hawthorn hedges knet,
That lyf was none, walking there forebye,
That might within scarce any wight espye."

A few years ago the late Sir John Cowell, Master of the Royal Household, instituted investigations which resulted in the discovery, beneath the floor of one of the rooms at the top of the entrance staircase, of a well which descended to the level of the Thames, and which was designed to supply the garrison with water in the event of a siege.

Those who wish to see the interior of the Castle must, on reaching the head of the Lower Ward, turn to the l. of the Round Tower in order to reach the North Terrace. The second gateway, in front,

bears the name of the Norman Gate, and the room over it forms part of the drawing-room of the modern lodgings. The portcullis is still drawn up against the wall, and the chimney bears many names and arms inscribed by prisoners in their confinement. On the r., through the gateway, is the entrance to the Round Tower; on the l., before passing it, a few steps lead down to the magnificent North Terrace.

The **Terrace**, more than 2900 ft. long, which surrounds the Upper Ward of the Castle on three sides, should on no account remain unvisited. It is the finest walk of the kind in existence. Evelyn says of it, "The Terrace towards Eton, with the Park, the meandering Thames, and sweet meadows, yields one of the most delightful prospects in the world." At the E. end a projection has been thrown out, which encircles the Royal *Private Flower Garden*. From the W. end of the Terrace may be seen the huge inscription on the Winchester Tower, "Hoc fecit Wykeham." Archbp. Parker relates that these words were originally placed here by William of Wykeham himself while building the Castle, and that the King would have been seriously offended at his thus arrogating to himself the credit of the building, if the prelate had not adroitly explained the inscription to mean that the Castle made *him*. Wyattville perpetuated the inscription by affixing these letters to the ashlar work of the Tower. On this Terrace Elizabeth walked for an hour every day, attended by her court; it was also the favourite walk of both the Charleses, and Charles I. constructed an ornamental gate at its E. extremity, the very gate beneath whose pediment afterwards paced the guard who held him in captivity. The family processions here, in the time of George III., are described by Madame D'Arblay:—"The King and Queen, the Prince of Mecklenburgh, and Her Majesty's mother, walked together; next them, the princesses and their ladies, and the young princes, making a very gay and pleasing procession of one of the finest families in the world. Every way they moved, the crowd retired to stand up against the wall as they passed, and then closed in to follow."

Below the Terrace are the **Slopes**, planted with a variety of trees and shrubs, intersected by shady walks, to which, however, the public are not admitted. At the foot of the Slopes was the Tournament-ground, where Edward III. used to take part in the jousts, with his shield bearing a white swan, and the motto:—

> "Hay, hay, the white swan,
> By God's soul, I am thy man."

The **State Apartments**, situated in the Star Building of Charles II., are entered by a doorway opening from the N. Terrace, towards the E. end. Their ceilings were decorated with mythological subjects by *Antonio Verrio*, who was appointed chief painter by Charles II., but who has since fallen into general disrepute, partly through the satire of Pope—

> "On painted ceilings we devoutly stare,
> Where sprawl the saints of Verrio and Laguerre"—

and Walpole. The Apartments are approached by the *Grand Staircase*, decorated with 16th and 17th cent. arms, flags, and suits of armour. Here is the famous shield long reputed to be by *Benvenuto Cellini*, and to have been given by Francis I. to Henry VIII. on the Field of the Cloth of Gold, but the workmanship is probably of a later period. There is also a statue

of George IV. by *Chantrey*. The rooms are shown in the following order:—

1. The *State Ante-room*, in which the light is very bad, has a painted ceiling by *Verrio*, representing a Banquet of the Gods; carvings by *Gibbons*; four landscapes by *Zuccarelli*; and St. Agnes, by *Domenichino*.

2. The *Rubens Room* (or *King's Drawing-room*), entirely filled with works of that master, or of his school:—

1. The painter himself. This belonged to Charles I.
2. Philip IV. of Spain, on horseback.
3. The Virgin and Infant Saviour, with St. John, St. Francis, St. Elizabeth, and St. Joseph.
4. St. Martin and the Beggar. The composition alone probably by Rubens, the execution by Vandyke.
5. His first wife, Elizabeth Brandt, one of his finest portraits.
6. Winter. "The uncomfortable feeling of winter is admirably expressed. Rubens, who painted all and everything, has here even put in the single flecks of snow." (*W.*)
7. Archduke Albert of Austria.
8. Summer. This and its companion-picture belonged to Villiers, Duke of Buckingham.
9. Sir Balthazar Gerbier and his family. Supposed with much reason to be by *Vandyke*.
10. Male portrait in ruff.
11. The Battle of Nördlingen.

3. The *Council Chamber*.—Three landscapes by *Zuccarelli*; the Church of the Frari, and the Statue of Bartolommeo Colleoni, Venice, *Canaletto*; St. Sebastian, *Guido Reni*; St. Catherine, *Domenichino*; A Man in Scarlet, *Pereda*; A Man in Black, *Spanish Sch.* The borders of the curtains in this room and the next were embroidered by Queen Charlotte and her ladies.

4. The *King's Closet*.—Three interiors of churches, the dark effect remarkably good, *Peter Neefs*; landscape and cattle, *A Van de Velde*; two landscapes and cattle, *N. Berghem*; kermesse, *J. Breughel*; St. Michele, Venice, and Library and Piazza, Venice, *Canaletto*; two landscapes, village scene, and interior, by the *Teniers*; triptych: Virgin and Child with Saints, *Flemish Sch.*; two Italian seaport scenes, *Carlevariis*.

5. The *Queen's Closet*.—Two seaport scenes, *Claude*; two landscapes, *G. Poussin*; portraits of Mary, Princess of Orange, William, 3rd Duke of Hamilton, and Anne Hyde, Duchess of York, *A. Hanneman*; two seaports, *Carlevariis*; Elizabeth Hamilton, Duchess de Gramont, *Lely*; Henry VII., and Edward VI., *Holbein*.

6. The *Picture Gallery*.—This was known as the Zuccarelli Room during the lifetime of Queen Victoria. The sacred pictures and landscapes, which formerly hung here, have been dispersed throughout the other rooms. The gallery contains the celebrated picture of The Misers, said to be that whereby *Quentin Matsys*, the smith of Antwerp, is believed to have obtained his wife, an artist's daughter, in marriage, having proved by its execution that he also was an artist. Hence also his epitaph at Antwerp, "Connubialis amor de Mulcibre fecit Apellem." "The strength of this picture," says *Kugler*, "lies essentially in the effort at character in the painter's conception of the subject. Two men sit at table; one, who counts his gold, and notes down the sum in his account-book, appears to be a merchant; the other, who familiarly lays his hand on his shoulder, and looks with malicious pleasure towards the spectator, seems to have just succeeded in outwitting him There are several repetitions and copies of this picture in existence,

besides free imitations by later artists." Note also the magnificent portraits of Sir H. Guildford, Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, father of the unfortunate Earl of Surrey, Derick Born, and John of Antwerp, *Holbein*; St. John, in a landscape, from the collection of Charles I., *Correggio*; Rembrandt's mother, *Rembrandt*; portraits of the painter and his wife, *Van Cleeve*; portrait of Erasmus, a copy of Holbein, *Pens*; the Virgin and Sleeping Jesus, with St. John approaching, *Annibale Caracci*; an officer in the Papal Guard, "probably the portrait of Lorenzo Cibo, praised by Vasari," Portrait of a Man, and the Infant Christ and St. John, *Parmegiano*; Gardener of the Duke of Florence, with a knife in his hand, *Francia Bigio* (?); portrait of a woman, and a Holy Family, *Andrea del Sarto*; two landscapes (one, the Campagna), *Claude*; Cleopatra, *Guido Reni*; portrait of Titian and a friend, *Titian*; the first Dukes of Urbino, *Melozzo da Forlì*; Venetian views, *Canaletto*.

7. The *Vandyke Room.*— No gallery in the world can display so many fine portraits by this great master. They are twenty-two in number:—

1. Portrait erroneously supposed to be Jan Snellincs, the friend of Vandyke.
2. Frances Cranfield, Countess of Dorset, as St. Agnes; probably only a copy.
3. George and Francis Villiers, sons of the 1st Duke of Buckingham. 1635. Belonged to James II.
4. Prince Charles, aged nine, with Princess Mary and the Duke of York.
5. Charles II., aged eleven, in armour.
6. Mary, Duchess of Richmond, only daughter of George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham, painted as St. Agnes, with the symbols of the Lamb and Palm-branch, with which the silk-dress and expression ill correspond.
7. Charles I. on a grey horse, with M. de St. Antoine, his equerry, on foot. This picture formed part of the private collection of Charles I., was sold by the rebels for £200 to Remy van Lemput, a Dutch painter, and recovered by Charles II. through a lawsuit.
8. Lucy, Countess of Carlyle.
9. Henrietta Maria, full length.
10. Henrietta Maria, full front.
11. The children of Charles I. In the centre Prince Charles, seven years of age, with a dog; on his r. Princesses Elizabeth and Mary; on his l. Princess Anne with Prince James sitting nearly undressed on a stool. 1637. This picture hung in Charles I.'s breakfast-room at Whitehall.
12. Head of Charles I. three times on one canvas, painted for Bernini, who executed from it a bust for Whitehall.
13. Beatrice de Cusance, Princesse de Cantecroy.
14. Henrietta Maria, in profile, half-length, painted by Vandyke for Bernini to model from.
15. Charles I., in royal robes, seated; next him his son Prince Charles: on the l. Henrietta Maria, also seated, little Prince James on her arm. Beyond the pillar the Tower of London in the distance. 1632.
16. Thomas Prince of Carignan, in armour, with the commander's bâton. A duplicate of this is at Munich.
17. Sir Kenelm Digby.
18. Venetia, wife of Sir Kenelm Digby; a male figure and two children bound at her feet, symbolical of Calumny.
19. Portrait of Vandyke himself.
20. Queen Henrietta Maria, in white silk, her hair adorned with pearls and a red band, taking some roses from a table, on which lies the crown. This picture hung in Charles I.'s bedroom.
21. Thomas Killigrew and Thomas Carew, poets. Dated 1639.
22. Henry, Comte de Berg.

8. The *Audience Chamber.*— The ceiling, by *Verrio*, represents Queen Catherine of Braganza as Britannia, attended by the goddesses to the temple of Virtue. The Gobelins tapestry represents events in the history of Esther and Mordecai. The portraits are William II. and Frederick, Princes of Orange, father and grandfather of our William III., by *Honthorst*, and a very interesting picture of Mary Queen of Scots by *Janet*, with her execution at

Fotheringay represented in the background, and a curious inscription. The frames of these portraits are all exquisitely carved by *Gibbons*.

9. *The Presence Chamber*, with a ceiling by *Verrio*, has fine Gobelins tapestry, with the sequel of the history of Esther of the tapestries in the Audience Chamber, and portraits of the Duchess of Orleans, youngest daughter of Charles I., by *Mignard*; of Frances, Duchess of Richmond and Lennox, by *Kneller*; and William, Duke of Gloucester, by *Lilly*.

10. The *Guard Room* is decorated mainly with armour of various dates, and arms of the Peninsular and Waterloo periods. A case contains the swords of James I., Charles I., John Hampden, and the Duke of Marlborough. On either side are the busts of Marlborough, l., and Wellington, r., having over their heads the banners of Blenheim and Waterloo, by the annual presentation of which, on the anniversaries of those victories, the domains of Blenheim and Stratfield Saye are held.

In the centre of the room is shown, in the attitude of throwing down the gauntlet, the suit worn by Dymoke, the King's Champion, at the Coronation of George IV. It is by *Jacobi*, and belonged to Sir C. Hatton, Captain of the Guard, and afterwards Chancellor, to Queen Elizabeth. There are busts of Charles V., Philip II. of Spain, and the Duke of Alva, and portraits of Henry, Prince of Wales, *Vandyke*; Charles II., *Lely*; Ernst, Count Mansfeldt, *Mytens*; Nicholas II. of Russia, *Kruger*; Frederick II. of Prussia, *Pesne*.

11. *St. George's Hall*, in which all the festivities of the Order of the Garter are held, appropriately fitted up, by *Wyattville*, with the coats-of-arms of all the Knights since the foundation of the Order, the numbers on each referring to the names painted on the panels below. The banners of the original Knights of the Order have recently been hung along the top of the walls, immediately beneath the richly decorated ceiling, and their names have been inscribed upon the oak panels in the recesses of the windows. On either side of the entrance are two small suits of blue and gold armour, one made for Henry, Prince of Wales, eldest son of James I., 1612, the other for his brother, Charles I., when a boy. Numerous brackets above the oak panelling support suits of steel armour and trophies, mostly of the 17th cent. Here are full-length portraits of the following Sovereigns:—

James I., *Vandyke*.
Charles I., *Vandyke*.
Charles II., *Lely*.
James II., *Lely*.
Mary II., *Kneller*.
William III., *Kneller*.
Anne, *Kneller*.
George I., *Kneller*.
George II., *Zeman*.
George III., *Gainsborough*.
George IV., *Lawrence*.

Half of the hall was transformed into a private chapel in the time of Charles II.; the carvings by *Gibbons* which adorned it were transferred during the last alterations (*temp.* George IV.) to the Waterloo Chamber and other rooms.

12. The *Grand Reception Room*, a magnificent chamber ornamented in the style of Louis XV., and hung with six fine specimens of Gobelins tapestry, representing the story of the Golden Fleece. It also contains a large malachite vase, presented to Queen Victoria by the Emperor Nicholas I. of Russia.

13. The *Throne Room*.—This is the Chapter Room of the Order of the Garter. Here Louis Philippe

and Napoleon III. were invested by Queen Victoria. The room is hung and upholstered with Garter blue velvet, bearing the insignia of the Order. The throne (formerly the state chair of the King of Candy) is of silver gilt, ornamented with cut crystals. There are portraits of Queen Victoria, and the Prince Consort, *Winterhalter*; George I. and George II., *Kneller*; George III., after *Gainsborough*; George IV., *Lawrence*; William IV., *Sir Martin A. Shee.*

14. The *Ante Throne Room* contains several religious landscapes by *Zuccarelli.*

15. The *Waterloo Chamber*, built by *Wyattville*, is decorated with portraits of all the chief persons who bore a prominent part in the Congress of Vienna. They are almost all by *Sir Thomas Lawrence*, and were painted for George IV.

Sovereigns are:—Francis I. of Austria, Alexander of Russia, Frederick William of Prussia, Pope Pius VII. (the Pope sat nine times for this portrait, which is the finest Lawrence ever painted), Charles X., George III. (*Beechey*), George IV. and William IV.—with the royal Dukes of York and Cambridge, Duc d'Angoulême, and Prince Leopold.

Generals:—Wellington, Blücher, Platoff, Czernitsheff, Archduke Charles, Prince Schwartzenburg, Ouvaroff; Hill (*Pickersgill*); Anglesea, Picton (*Shee*); Kempt (*McInnes*); William Prince of Orange (*de Keyser*); Duke of Brunswick (*Corden*).

Ministers:—Castlereagh, Liverpool, Canning, Consalvi, Metternich, Hardenberg, Nesselrode, W. von Humboldt, Capo d'Istria, Bathurst, Munster, Duc de Richelieu; Alten (*Reichmann*).

Note round the portraits over the fireplaces, and on the galleries and panels, the carvings by *Gibbons*, transferred from St. George's Hall (*temp.* George IV.). Alluding to the Imperial visit of 1855, Queen Victoria thus records her sense of the irony of the situation: "That I, the granddaughter of George III., should dance with the Emperor Napoleon, nephew of England's greatest enemy—in the Waterloo Chamber!"

16. The *Grand Vestibule* contains armour and a rich collection of firearms from the early 16th cent. to the early 19th cent.; the footstool of Tippoo Sahib, a tiger-head of gold, with teeth of crystal, and a richly jewelled bird, which crowned the canopy of his throne. At the N. end there is a fine statue of Queen Victoria, with her favourite dog, "Sharp," by *Boehm.* In the r. corner is the black flag of the Khalifa, captured at Omdurman. There are four pictures by *West.*

This concludes the series of rooms now shown to the public, and the Grand Staircase is again reached. The small staircase which conducts visitors down near the Upper Ward is decorated with a portrait of Sir J. Wyattville, by *Lawrence*; some ruins, by *Pannini*; an unfinished Diana and Actæon, by *Gainsborough*; and a fine piece of Mortlake tapestry.

The **Upper Ward** occupies the site of the Castle built originally by Henry II., and altered and enlarged by Edward III., which was built by the French king's ransom, according to Stow, who also says that the Scotch king's ransom was used in the remodelling of the Lower Ward; and that these alterations were suggested by the captive monarchs themselves while walking with Edward III. At present it forms an extensive quadrangle, surrounded on three sides by buildings containing the State and private apartments, while on the fourth rises the Keep, between the Upper and Lower

Wards. The centre of the quadrangle was formerly occupied by the magnificent dragon-fountain of Queen Mary, now destroyed. At its S.W. angle stands an equestrian *Statue of Charles II.*, erected to that "best of kings," as the inscription styles him, by Tobias Rustat, a housekeeper at Hampton Court, who is mentioned by Evelyn as "Toby Rustate, page of the backstairs, a very simple, ignorant, but honest and loyal creature." The carvings on the pedestal are by *Gibbons*, "The fruit, fish, and implements," observes Walpole, "are all exquisite; while the man and horse may serve for a sign to draw the passenger's eye to the pedestal." There are two carriage-entrances to this quadrangle: one of St. George, adjoining the Devil's Tower; the other, called George IV.'s Gateway, between the York and Lancaster Towers, opening upon the Long Walk, and commanding a full view of it from end to end.

The **Private Apartments of the Sovereign**, occupying the E. side of the Upper Ward, are handsome, and the views from the windows are magnificent. A *Corridor*, 520 ft. long, and 22 ft. wide, by *Sir J. Wyattville*, gives access to the entire suite of apartments, and runs round the S. and E. sides of the quadrangle. It is filled with choice works of art. All the state events in the reign of Queen Victoria—her coronation, her marriage, the baptism and marriage of the Prince of Wales (King Edward VII.), etc. —are represented on the walls. The Royal private staircase is prettily conceived, and, being triangular in its plan, shows a difficulty ingeniously overcome by the architect.

Between the Long Corridor and St. George's Hall is a small *Passage*, panelled with interesting pictures of the Tudor family, and of the leading characters of the time of the Reformation, including Luther as "Junker Georg," and Linacre the physician.

The *King's Room*, with a large window, looking on the private garden, is that in which George IV. and William IV. died. Hither the Prince Consort was removed the week before his death, and here he died, Dec. 14, 1861.

The *Great Drawing Room* is noticeable for its magnificent furniture of red silk; the *White Drawing Room* and the *Green Drawing Room* for their decorations in these colours; the *Dining Room* for its rich mirrors and gilded Gothic tracery, and for its solid silver-gilt wine-cooler by *Flaxman*, decorated with vine tendrils, foliage, and grapes, among which little cupids are sporting.

The **Royal Private Library**, overlooking the N. Terrace, contains a magnificent collection of *Drawings by the Old Masters;* those of *Leonardo da Vinci* are contained in 3 vols., a collection unrivalled, and approached only by those of the ex-Grand Duke of Tuscany, and that in the Ambrosian Library at Milan. The drawings by *Michael Angelo* are numerous, comprising several studies for the frescoes in the Sistine Chapel, and others mentioned by Vasari. 53 drawings are attributed to *Raffaelle*, from which Passavant has selected 18 as genuine, comprising studies for the cartoon of "Feeding Sheep" at Hampton Court, for the figure of Poetry in the Camera della Segnatura, for the Expulsion of Adam and Eve in the Loggie of the Vatican, and for the figure of Jonah in the Sta. Maria del Popolo. There are also drawings by *Luca Signorelli* (a study for Orvieto); *Fra Bartolommeo; Andrea del Sarto; Filippo Lippi; Correggio; Parmegiano.* Several volumes contain drawings of *Guido Reni;* 2 those of

Raffaelle's pupils, especially *Giulio Romano* and *Caravaggio;* 11 the *Caracci;* 16 *Guercino;* 24 *Domenichino;* beside several of *Claude*, *Poussin*, and *Albert Dürer*. But the gems of the collection are 2 vols., containing 87 portraits, by *Holbein*, of the court of Henry VIII., comprising those of Jane Seymour, Prince Edward as a child, Dean Colet, and More. Another collection, of *English Historical Prints*, perhaps the most valuable in England, was made for Windsor by Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort, and was alphabetically arranged by the latter with his well-known taste and judgment. There is also a valuable collection of miniatures of the Royal Family from the time of Henry VII. The windows of the Library overlook the beautiful Eton playing-fields. One is in a recess, which formed the boudoir of Queen Anne, in which the scene of Mrs. Masham and the cup of tea is said to have taken place.

The **Home Park** immediately adjoins the Castle, and incloses 500 acres; it was walled by William III. In this Park, and the fields near Frogmore, Shakespeare laid many scenes of the "Merry Wives of Windsor." It was here particularly that Falstaff, disguised as "a Windsor stag," was tormented by the fairies. A withered and barkless oak, enclosed by a railing, long stood in the line of the avenue of elms, and bore the name of *Herne's Oak* (according to tradition, Herne was a woodman who had in some way incurred the displeasure of Queen Elizabeth, and hung himself on a tree that she would have to pass), though it is more probable that the real tree was accidentally cut down by George III. in 1796. It was blown down in Aug. 1863, but a young oak has been planted in its place.

"There is an old tale goes that Herne the hunter,
Sometime a keeper here in Windsor Forest,
Doth all the winter time, at still midnight,
Walk round about an oak, with great ragged horns,
And there he blasts the tree and takes the cattle,
And makes milch kine yield blood, and shakes a chain
In a most hideous and dreadful manner.
. . . . . Marry, this is our device,
That Falstaff at that oak shall meet with us,
Disguised like Herne, with huge horns on his head."—*Shakespeare.*

Not far off is **Adelaide Lodge**, a cottage of the late Queen Adelaide, consisting of two unpretending rooms, with a garden laid out by her.

Frogmore House, near the road leading to Runnymede and Egham, was formerly the residence of Queen Charlotte, and of the Princess Augusta, who died here, Sept. 22, 1840. Here also Queen Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent, died, March 16, 1861, after a lingering illness. Her remains are interred in a *Mausoleum* in the grounds, which was begun by her order during her lifetime, but was not completed till after her death. It is a small circular structure, consisting of two chambers, surmounted by a dome, supported by 16 Ionic columns. The lower chamber contains the remains of Her Royal Highness, in a sarcophagus of grey granite, while in the upper one there is a very beautiful marble statue of the Duchess by Theed. In front of the Mausoleum there is a monumental cross of Cairngall granite, erected by Queen Victoria to the memory of Lady Augusta Stanley (d. Mar. 1, 1876), the wife of Dean Stanley, and for thirty years in the service of Her Majesty and the Duchess of Kent.

In the same grounds, and within sight of this, is the *Mausoleum* of the Prince Consort: a magnificent memorial, erected by Her

late Majesty from designs by Professor Grüner and Mr. Humbert. The first stone was laid in March 1862. The body is interred under the dome, and covered by a recumbent marble effigy, by Baron Marochetti. The walls of the interior of the building are panelled with rich marbles, and are further decorated by bas-reliefs, urns and statues in niches, and frescoes. The floor is inlaid with polished marbles, the ceiling with Venetian mosaics, and the windows are filled with stained glass. In 1881 a memorial cenotaph to the Princess Alice was placed within the Mausoleum by Queen Victoria. It is surmounted by an exquisitely sculptured effigy of the Princess in white marble by Boehm. The Mausoleums are never shown to the public.

The closing scenes in the **obsequies of Queen Victoria**, who died at Osborne on Jan. 22, 1901, took place at Windsor. On the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 2, the royal coffin was conveyed from London to Windsor, and placed in *St. George's Chapel* (*ante*), in the presence of an illustrious congregation. Here, at the close of divine service, conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Winchester, Norroy, Deputy to Garter King-of-Arms, proclaimed the death of Queen Victoria and the accession of King Edward VII. Early in the afternoon of Monday, Feb. 4, the royal remains, which had meanwhile been placed in the *Albert Memorial Chapel* (*ante*), were removed for interment in the *Royal Mausoleum*, Frogmore (*ante*), beside those of the Prince Consort, in accordance with the resolve to which the Queen had given expression on the bronze tablet over the entrance: "Hic demum conquiescam tecum, tecum in Christo consurgam." Resting on a gun-carriage drawn by eight horses, and accompanied by a procession formed almost entirely of royal, imperial and princely mourners, the coffin was borne through the precincts of the Castle and down the Long Walk, many thousands of spectators lining the route. King Edward VII. followed immediately after the coffin, the German Emperor coming next. Queen Alexandra led the procession of royal ladies, while the young Prince Edward of York walked by her side. The start and progress of the procession was marked by the firing of 15-pounder guns in the Long Walk, and the tolling of the Mausoleum bell, answered by the great bell of the Round Tower (*ante*). Beyond the entrance to the grounds of Frogmore the ceremonial was private. The Committal Prayer was read by the Bishop of Winchester, and the earth—understood to have been brought from the Holy Land—was cast upon the coffin by Lord Edward Pelham-Clinton, Master of her late Majesty's Household.

2 m. E. of the town, on the right bank of the Thames, is the village of **Old Windsor**, where, on a site probably to the W. of the church, near the river, was the palace of Edward the Confessor, which was the predecessor of the Castle. Here, according to Fabyan, the great Earl Godwin died:—"Sitting at the King's board, with the other lords, he perceived that the King suspected him of his brother Alfred's death, and said, 'So may I safely swallow this morsel of bread that I hold in my hand, as I am guiltless of the deed.' But as soon as he had received the bread, forthwith he was choked. And the King commanded that he should be drawn from the table, and so conveyed to Winchester, and there buried." Here William of Malmes-

bury narrates that Wulwin, a blind woodcutter, besought the King to restore his sight, when the King, mildly answering, "By our Lady, I shall be grateful if God, through my means, shall choose to take pity upon a wretched creature," laid his hands on the blind man, when the blood dripped from his eyes, and he saw, exclaiming with rapture, "I see you, O King! I see you, O King!" Here also Roger of Wendover tells that Earl Tosti seized his brother Harold by the hair when about to pledge the King in a cup of wine at the banquet; Harold caught him in his arms, and dashed him violently against the ground, till they were parted by the soldiers.

Windsor Great Park is separated from the Castle by part of the town, and by the high road. Besides large portions used as farms, it contains about 1800 acres, which abound in delightful drives and walks, through forest-scenery, and are occupied by herds of deer. Here Henry VIII. rode forth hawking, and held his great archery meetings, at one of which Barlow, a Londoner, so outshot the rest that the King dubbed him Duke of Shoreditch; and here also Elizabeth used to hunt in the early morning, and, as a special compliment, would cut the throat of the deer with her own hand.

The Park is traversed for 3 m. by the great avenue known as the **Long Walk** (begun by Charles II. and completed by William III.), which passes the site of the Upper Lodge, the residence of the Princess Anne when under the displeasure of William III., and afterwards inhabited for many years by George III. and his family. Hither the materials of Holbein's Gate at Whitehall, removed 1759, were brought by the Duke of Cumberland, who intended to have erected it as a termination to the avenue; but his death prevented the execution of the design. The carriage road down this avenue was constructed in 1710. Parallel to this, on the W., runs the Queen's Walk, an avenue planted under Queen Anne, 1707.

At the extremity of the Long Walk is *Snow Hill*, where, raised on a block of granite, stands a colossal equestrian leaden statue of George III., in a Roman toga, by *Westmacott*. The view of the Castle from hence, with groups of beech trees in the foreground, is exceedingly fine. ½ m. S.E. from the extremity of the Long Walk is *Cumberland Lodge*, the residence of the Duke who conquered at Culloden. Not far from it stood the *Royal Lodge*, a cottage in the Gothic style, built by George IV., and forming his favourite retreat, in which he spent the last years of his life, secluded as much as possible from public view. After his death it was all pulled down, except the Dining-room and Conservatory. Near it stands a tasteless modern *Gothic Chapel*. Close to *Sandpit Gate* is the *Heronry*, celebrated for its beech trees.

Clewer, now practically a suburb of Windsor, is dominated by the red-brick buildings of the Clewer Sisterhood. Clewer, like Wantage, is peculiarly rich in "Institutions." To the Penitentiary, commenced in 1849, have been added Hospitals, Homes, and Orphanages: the whole is under the direction of the Sisters, and is supported by voluntary contributions. The *church*, once Norman, has been so restored as to be without interest. It possesses a much-scraped Norman arcade, a *brass* to Mrs. Lucy Hobson (1657), and a *brass* with rhyming inscription to one

Martyn Expence, who at Bray "shott with 100 men, him selfe alone."

Half a mile above Boveney lock, on the Berks side, is "Surley Hall," a riverside hotel, well known in connection with Eton 4th of June celebrations. It has recently been purchased by Sir Albert Rollit, and will be closed as a public-house.

ROUTE 2.

READING TO MAIDENHEAD

(By Shottesbrook and Bray).

14½ miles.

Reading, Sonning, Twyford, Ruscombe, Waltham St. Lawrence, Shottesbrook, White Waltham, Bray,

The road lies through flat country, and the surface is fair.

✠ **READING**, the county town of Berkshire, is situated on the Thames and Kennet. It is a very flourishing place; the population in 1801 was 9,742, in 1871 42,050, and in 1901 72,214. Once the seat of a famous Abbey, Reading now possesses few objects of antiquarian interest. It has one or two good streets, with an unusually large amount of rather squalid suburbs, is well-known as a railway centre, and is world-famous for its biscuits.

Reading is an important junction on the G.W.R. main line, which here gives off branches to Newbury and Basingstoke. The S.W.R. and S.E.R. have a joint terminus close to the newly rebuilt G.W.R. station. Reading is 36 miles by rail and 39 by road from London.

The earliest mention of Reading is in 868, when Ivor the Dane fixed his headquarters here. Of the Norm. castle, which was held for Stephen, not a trace remains, except in the name of *Castle Street*. At Reading Henry II., in 1185, received Heraclius, patriarch of Jerusalem, who presented him with the keys of the Holy Sepulchre and the royal banners of the city. Here met the convocation for the trial of William of Longchamp, Bishop of Ely, regent during the absence of Richard I.; and two ecclesiastical councils, one under the legate Pandulph in the reign of John, the other in 1270. Here also Richard II. was reconciled to his nobles in 1380, through the intervention of John of Gaunt. Reading has been visited by royal personages innumerable, and by Queen Elizabeth no less than six times. Many Parliaments were held here, and in 1625 the law courts were transferred here from London during Michaelmas Term, on account of the outbreak of the plague. In 1643 the town was besieged by the Parliamentarians under Essex, when, after a short but severe siege, the garrison marched out with the honours of war to join the King's troops at Oxford; it was afterwards occupied at intervals by both the contending parties. In December 1688 there was a sharp encounter at Reading between the forces of King James and those of the Prince of Orange, in which the former were worsted. This anniversary, and the belief that the Irish soldiers intended to massacre the inhabitants during divine service, were long commemorated by the ringing of bells

and the ballad of the "Reading Skirmish," which told how—

"Five hundred Papishes came there,
To make a final end
Of all the town in time of prayer,
But God did them defend."

In a house in Broad Street, now destroyed (engraved in Man's *Hist. of Reading*), Archbishop Laud was born, the son of a clothier; in his prosperity he founded charities for his native town, which still remain. Sir Thomas White, the founder of St. John's College, Oxford, was also a native of Reading, and established two scholarships in his new foundation for his native place. "John Bunyan was well-known at Reading, where he sometimes went through the streets, dressed like a carter, with a long whip in his hand, to avoid detection. In a visit to that place he contracted the disease which brought him to his grave." John Blagrave the mathematician, Joseph Blagrave the astrologer, Merrick the poet, and Judge Talfourd were also natives of Reading.

The primary cause of the prosperity of the borough was the wealth of its abbey, but as early as the reign of Edward I. it was famous for its cloth manufacture, which has now disappeared. The "Oracle," long the Woolmerchants' and Dyers' Hall, stood in Minster-street until *c.* 1860, when it was demolished. It derived its name from Orchil (*Rocella Tinctoria*), a lichen brought from the Canary Isles. and used in dyeing. The town still, however, remains a great mart for corn and agricultural produce. There are also malthouses and breweries. Huntley & Palmers' biscuit manufactory employs 4000 to 5000 hands. Messrs. Sutton's seed establishment, where their seeds, grown over many thousand acres in different parts of England and the Continent, are sold, is worth a visit. Their glass-houses contain wonderful displays of primulas, gloxinias, cinerarias, cyclamens, begonias, etc., at certain seasons of the year.

The *Churches* are not very interesting.

St. Lawrence (153 × 46 ft.) a spacious Perp. "town-church," rebuilt in 1434, has a good W. tower with octagonal tourelles. The building has been much restored, but still retains a certain air of dignity. Between nave and N. aisle is a good P. arcade, with elaborate canopied niches. The chantry chapel, at E. of N. aisle, is dedicated to St. John; here is preserved the keyboard of the old organ, with the modern system of black and white notes reversed. Some good Perp. bench-ends remain in the chancel, and on one of the pillars of the nave is a shield with the Virgin and Child, the episcopal arms of Salisbury: Reading and the rest of Berkshire were only transferred to the diocese of Oxford in 1836. (See also under *Sonning.*) The W. window, by Kempe, commemorates various benefactors of the town: for Laud and White see *ante.* Henry I. founded the Abbey, Henry VII. the Grammar School, and Charles I. gave the town its principal charter. There are desk-kneelers to Martha Hamley (1636), and to — Lydall, his 3 sons and 6 drs.; and *brasses* to (1) John and Joan Kent; (2) John Andrew, 1428; (3) W. Barton (a palimpsest of Sir John Popham, 1463); (4) E. Butler and Alys his wife, 1584. The N. aisle contains the effigy of John Blagrave, holding a globe and a quadrant, with the epitaph—

"Johannes Blagravus,
Totus mathematicus,
Cum matre sepultus."

He left a legacy for the encouragement of Reading maidservants: the churchwardens of each of the three parishes were to choose maid-servants of five years' standing, who were to meet and throw dice for a purse of £10 on Good Friday.

"This is lucky money," says Ashmole, "for I never yet heard of a maid who got the £10, but soon after found a good husband." A view of the church is given in the "Beauties of England and Wales." Against the S. side was a Jacobean piazza, built by John Kendrick in 1619, and pulled down in 1868.

St. Mary's, founded on the site of a nunnery built by Elfrida, to expiate the murder of her stepson, was formerly called the Minster, which name remains as that of the adjoining street. The church is said to have been rebuilt in 1551 with the material of the abbey and the friary: it is now much restored, and the chancel is modern. It has a chequered W. tower, a Perp. font, some old woodwork at the W. end, and a poor-box, 1627. There is a desk-kneeler to W. Kendrick and wife (1635), and brass plates to W. Baron (1416) and John and Aleys Boorne (1558).

St. Giles' was much damaged during the siege of 1643; the slender tower and spire have been rebuilt, as indeed has most of the church. There is a *brass* to John Bowyer and Joan his wife, 1521, and a brass plate to Margaret Malthus, 1613.

Near the stat. is the *Greyfriars Church* (largely rebuilt), a fragment of the old monastic church which, after serving as town hall, workhouse, and gaol, was reconverted to religious uses in 1863. It has a Dec. arcade and a large (restored) reticulated Dec. W. window. The site was granted to the friars by Reading Abbey in 1233.

The chief pride of Reading was once its Benedictine *Abbey*, now a mere shell, but formerly ranking, after Glastonbury and St. Alban's, as third of all the English abbeys. It was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, SS. Mary, John the Evangelist, and James, and was intended for 200 monks, with a mitred abbot. Founded by Henry I., 1121, it was endowed by him with the privilege of coining, and he further secured its fortunes by presenting it with the hand—the *incorrupta manus*—of St. James the Apostle, which had been given to him by his daughter Maud. This hand is claimed to be still preserved at the R.C. church at Great Marlow (see *Handbook for Bucks*). Maud was the wife of the Emperor Henry IV. and mother of Henry II., and, with her father, was interred here. Her epitaph is recorded by Camden:—

"Magna ortu, majorque viro, sed maxima partu;
Hic jacet Henrici filia, sponsa, parens."

The Abbey Church was dedicated in 1164 by Becket, in the presence of Henry II. and a great gathering of the nobility. It contained many royal monuments, and in it John of Gaunt was married to Blanche of Lancaster in 1359. At the Dissolution its revenues were estimated at the enormous sum of £1938 13*s.* 3½*d.* Hugh Faringdon, 31st and last abbot of Reading (see *Bere Court*), was, on Nov. 14, 1539, hanged, drawn, and quartered, with two of his monks, within sight of his own gateway. Henry VIII. converted the abbey into a palace, occasionally residing there himself. It was afterwards frequently occupied by the sovereign till its destruction in the great rebellion. Nothing now remains but shapeless masses of core, of little interest.

"The ruins, though stripped, by destroyers of more than ordinary patience and industry, of almost every stone which cased the walls, still, though built only of small flints, defy the injuries of time and weather, and have more the appearance of rocks than of the work of human hands."—*Englefield.*

A portion of the great hall is still pointed out, in which the parliaments were held, and where

the marriage of Edward IV. with Elizabeth Woodville was first made public. The site is now laid out and planted as a pleasure-ground, and is overshadowed by the huge and ugly gaol.

Close by, in the Forbury, stands the inner *Gateway of the Abbey*, rebuilt by Scott in 1861. An Assize Court-house adjoins it. The outer gateway abutted on St. Lawrence's Church, close to which was the *Grammar School*, at which Archbishop Laud was educated, and of which the Marian martyr, Julius Palmer, was master (see *Newbury*). This school, which greatly flourished under the well-known Dr. Valpy and whose buildings were those of the ancient hospital of St. John, was removed to a new site on the London Road in 1871. Besides the Hospital of St. John, there once existed in Reading two other hospitals, both for lepers. The various almshouses in the town were consolidated in 1865, and the almspeople removed to some new buildings in Castle Street. The Town Hall contains a Public Reading Room and a Museum and Art Gallery (see "Index and Directory"), in which are annually deposited the principal "finds" at Silchester.

These collections are—1. The result of excavations begun in 1890 on the estate of the Duke of Wellington, and carried on to the present day by a committee controlled by the Society of Antiquaries, London; 2. The property of the Duke, deposited here on loan.

They are unique as illustrating the life of a country town in Roman Britain, without military cast of northern stations.

The collections occupy part of the first floor: the lobby at top of stairs, the room beyond lobby, and the first room to r.

The Lobby contains: specimens of mosaic pavements, in some cases oddly and rudely patched.

The Room beyond Lobby (Architectural Room):—

1. *In centre*: Models to scale of (*a*) two houses of characteristic Silchester type, differing both from town houses in Italy and country houses in Britain in plan; (*b*) *West Gate* (excavated in 1890), showing guard-chambers and defences, and double passage of the great road leading to W. of England and S. Wales; (*c*) Building (4th cent.), probably Christian church (excavated in 1892), showing peculiarities of orientation and ground-plan.
2. *Round the room:* Fragments of stone bases, pillars, capitals, etc., mostly from forum and basilica: mosaic pavements, slabs of marble, plaster painting (including a restored dado), examples of stone-slab and tile roofing, building tiles, etc.
3. *In case:* Fragments of marble (Purbeck and foreign), *opus signinum*.
4. *On screens:* Plans and photographs of the various buildings excavated.

The room to r. of lobby:—

Wall cases: Collection of several vessels in pottery, including excellent specimens of the following wares: British handmade, New Forest, Upchurch Salopian, Durobrivian (one drinking-cup inscribed VITAM TIBI), Samian, and almost all other known wares made or imported during the Roman occupation of Britain.

Bases of same cases: Bones of all common kinds; among which are Bos longifrons, horse, the domestic dog, and skull bones of an infant, and fish. Tiles with the imprints of feet of animals, etc., including one of a baby's foot. Leather articles—boots, etc., and buckets made of wood and bronze.

Base of wall case 5: Mortars and mealing-stones, one of the latter still retaining its original wooden handle by which it was worked.

Window case: Coins in gold, silver and bronze, ranging in date from Marc Antony (B.C. 39) to Honorius (A.D. 423). Also a common jar which when found contained 258 silver denarii, a few of which were claimed by British Museum, but most are still shown with it.

On pedestal between wall cases 4 *and* 5: A conical greensand shell, inscribed with Ogham lettering, discovered in the bottom of a well. The inscription is of the ordinary funeral character, but the occurrence of this early Christian cypher, at least a hundred miles from Celtic communities where it was in vogue, is curious.

In N.-W. corner of room: A quite unique force-pump (*machina ctesibica*), and a specimen of timber well-lining.

In N.-E. corner: Wine or oil butts, which were subsequently utilized for well-linings.

Table cases :—

1. Plant remains of the Roman period obtained from wells and pits at Silchester. Articles in jet, Kimmeridge shale and bone.
2. Remains of hearths of cupellation furnaces for extraction of silver from copper ; bronze saucepans and bowls ; objects in terra-cotta.
3. A great variety of bronze articles, including statuettes, ornaments, steelyards and weights, locks, keys, knives, spoons, needles, pins, articles for ladies' toilet use, and children's playthings (note a rocking-horse).
4. Rings in gold and bronze, some of which are set with seals and gems ; enamel work ; a good collection of window and other glass, including a bowl of pillared marble glass complete, said to be unique in Britain.

5 and 6. A large collection of ironwork, including two hoards of tools, each found down wells, the chief of which are carpenter's plane, gridiron, anvils, padlock of unusual size, smith's hammers, tongs, numerous other mechanical tools, etc.

7. Fragments of marble tablets, etc., bearing inscriptions.

8 and 9. Specimens of various pottery wares, showing a variety of ornamentation.

The other departments of the Museum and Art Gallery are worthy of attention.

Fuller tells the story of Henry VIII. and the Abbot of Reading, how

"As the King was hunting in Windsor Forest, having lost his way, he was invited to the Abbot's table, where he passed for one of the Royal guard. A sirloin of beef was placed before him, on which the King laid on so lustily as not to disgrace one of that place for which he had been mistaked. 'Well fare thy heart,' quoth the Abbot, 'for here, in a cup of sack, I remember the health of his Grace your master. I would give a 100 pounds on condition that I could feed so lustily on beef as you do. Alas! my weak and squeezie stomach will hardly digest the wing of a small rabbit or chicken.' The King pleasantly pledged him, and departed undiscovered. Some weeks after, the Abbot was sent for, clapt into the Tower, kept close prisoner, and fed for a short time on bread and water ; yet not so empty was his body of food as his mind was filled with fears, making many suspicions to himself when and how he had incurred the King's displeasure. At last a sirloin of beef was set before him, when he verified the proverb that two hungry meals make a glutton. In springs King Henry, out of a private lobby where he had placed himself. 'My lord,' quoth the King, 'deposit presently your 100 pounds in gold, or else no going hence all the days of your life. I have been your physician to cure you of your squeezie stomach, and here, as I deserve, I demand my fee for the same.' The Abbot down with his dust, and, glad he escaped so, returned to Reading, as somewhat lighter in purse, so much more merry in heart, than when he came thence."

Just r. of the town, on the other bank of the Thames, is *Caversham* (*see* Handbook to Oxfordshire), a large village and suburb of Reading. There was here formerly "a picturesque old bridge, with a chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On an island below it was fought a wager of battle between Robert de Montfort and Henry of Essex in the presence of King Henry II. Essex, who was accused of cowardice or treachery in flinging away the royal standard at Coleshil, was defeated, but was allowed to save his life by becoming a monk at Reading Abbey."

3 m. Half a mile on the N. of the road is

✲ **Sonning**, an extremely beautiful riverside village, with hanging woods sloping down to the Thames. There are said to be older records of Sonning bridge than of any other which crosses the Thames. In the 10th and 11th cents. this place was the seat of a bishop for Berks and Wilts, and the names of nine of its holders have been preserved — viz.. Athelstan, Odo, Osulf, Alfstan, Alfgar, Sigeric, Alfric, Brightwold, and Heremann (who united the bishopric of Sherborne to his own, and, "in the reign of Edward the Elder, transferred his see to Sherborne, by synodal authority and that king's munificence"). After the deposition of Richard II., his child-wife, Isabella of Valois, fled hither to the Bishop of Salisbury, who still resided at Sonning, which remained in the diocese of Salisbury. The

bishops retained their palace here till the reign of Elizabeth, when it was exchanged with the Crown; the site of the palace is now marked by an aged ash-tree on a rising ground above the river. Thomas Rich (created baronet 1660), who then owned the manor, was a great friend to the clergy who were ejected in the Commonwealth, and entertained at Sonning the deprived Bishop Brownrig until the Restoration. Towards the close of the last century Miss Rich gave shelter here to many French *émigrés*, including Admiral Villeneuve, who lost the battle of Trafalgar.

Before the Reformation there existed here a chapel of St. Sarac, which was a celebrated place of pilgrimage for the cure of madness.

The *Church* is large (122 × 57 ft.), but much rebuilt and modernised. The nave arcades are E.E. round pillars and oct. caps.; the E. window is simple Dec., and contrasts favourably with the modern ones on either side of it; there are two good early Dec. windows on N. of nave. Notice the very elaborate Dec. arch between chancel and N. aisle. On the S. face of it are represented Christ, with fourteen mitred figures said to be the twelve Apostles with Moses and Elias; and on the N. side the Virgin and Child (the arms of the see of Salisbury), two censing angels and twelve royal figures. It seems to have been restored and tampered with. This arch now serves as a canopy to the tomb of Hugh Pearson (d. 1882), a former vicar, and the three knights and three ladies who once knelt under it are relegated to the S. chancel wall. There are *brasses*:—(1) Thomas ———, 1612 (hidden by organ); (2) Anthony Barker, 1546; (3) Wm. Barker, 1549; (4) Ann Staverton, 1589; (5) A Lady, *c.* 1560; (6) Eliz. Chute, aged 3, 1627; (7) (Good brass) Lawrence Ffyton, 1434, Bailiff of Sonning; (8) Sir Anthony Barker, 1630. Under the tower is a stupendous monument to the Riches, 1667 (see *ante*).

5 m. **Twyford**, (*stat.*, with branch line to Henley); an uninteresting modern village, made a parish (1876) out of a hamlet of the same name. It has some almshouses, founded by Sir Richard Harrison of Hurst, and endowed by his granddaughter, Lady Frances Winchcombe (of Bucklebury), whose charities were innumerable. The buildings are of one story, modernised but still picturesque, and bear the legend "Domino et pauperibus, 1640."

From Twyford, Maidenhead can be reached either by the main or "Bath" road, or by the southern road through Ruscombe and Shottesbrook (a third road, hilly and circuitous, but very interesting, is described under Route 3). Maidenhead is 8 miles from Twyford by the Bath road and 9½ miles distant by the southern road, but as all the places of interest are on the latter, it is here described. On either road the gradients are very slight and the surface moderately good.

5½ m. **Ruscombe.** The *Church* has an absolutely plain E.E. chancel, a Jacobean pulpit, and a nave and tower both built of brick in 1639, and curious examples. A vane on the tower bears the initials C. R., and date 1639. William Penn died July 30, 1718, in a large house near the church, pulled down about 1840.

8 m. **Waltham St. Lawrence** has a *Church* largely rebuilt. The arcades are Dec., but two arches to W. on either side are plain Norm. The tower is low, with a heavy Dec. W. window and bold stair-turret. The N.E. chantry has a 3-light square-headed Dec.

window, in the mullions of which are left several big flint stones. There is a Dec. piscina, and in the N. aisle a good royal arms of Anne.

8¾ m. **Shottesbrook.** The manor was held on a grand serjeantry tenure by the service of providing charcoal to make the crown and regalia at the king's coronation. Under this condition it was held by Alward the Goldsmith under Will. Rufus, and Alward's father had held it under Edward the Confessor. Here Sir Wm. Trussell, of Cubbles-don, Staffs., founded (1337) a small college of St. John the Baptist for a warden and five priests. Its revenues at the time of the suppression, *temp.* Ed. VI., amounted to £33 18*s.* 8*d.* Some remains of its outbuildings may perhaps be traced in two lodges by the side of the road from Maidenhead through Shottesbrook Park, where there are some flint walls and mutilated windows apparently of Dec. and Perp. date.

The *Church* lies in the park, with the modern mansion close to it on the N. It was built by Sir William Trussell, is pure Dec. *throughout*, and for its singular beauty will bear comparison with the famous Dec. churches of Patrington and Heckington. In plan it is cruciform with a central spire. Nave and chancel are of equal length. Its dimensions are 77 × 56 ft. over transepts; the tower is good, with a bold staircase turret, and the ribbed spire is very graceful. In the chancel notice three fine sedilia, and a piscina with a curious bracket shelf. On the N. wall of chancel is a delicate and unusual Dec. doorway blocked, and a double aumbry with original wood lining. The E. window is of five lights and very good. In the chancel is a very curious alabaster "coffin" monument to William Throckmorton, warden of this church 1535. It is only 4 ft. long, and carries the inscription on a stone which crosses the coffin in the middle like a piece of the lid.

In the N. transept are two altar-tombs (to the founder and his wife) side by side with canopies divided by a niche, with much fine panelling and tabernacle work, disastrously "restored." Here also are *brasses* to (1) the founder's daughter, Lady Margaret Pennebrygg, 1401; (2) Richard Gyll, late "sergeant of the Bake-house to Hen. VII. and VIII. and Baily of the VII. Hundred of Cokam & Bray," 1511; (3) a fine double-canopied brass of a priest and a franklin, *c.* 1380 (in the nave); and (4) a brass to Thomas Noke and his three wives, 1567. "For his great age and virtuous life he was reverenced by all men, and commonly called Father Noke. He was of stature high and comely, and for his excellencie in artillerie made Yoman of the Crowne of England." His Latin epitaph is by Lady Hoby (see *Bisham*). It is worth noticing that the sex of the children on the brass does not correspond with the inscription, and the brass should be compared with that at *Hanney*, as pointing to the fact that the children's figures for putting on tombs were sold by the yard, and cut by the tomb-maker to suit the occasion. In each transept is a piscina, and the font is fine Dec. There are some remains of Dec. glass. The church is disfigured by a bad modern screen. Outside notice the splendid ashlar work, the buttresses, S. and N. porches, the last foolishly blocked; and a fine yew. On the N. wall of the N. transept outside are to be seen traces of a raised crypt like that in the same position at Witney.

"A little body of nonjuring friends were settled at Shottesbrooke; at their head was Francis Cherry, of Shottesbrooke House, whose worth and hospitality, combined with genteel accomplishments and a handsome person, rendered him the idol of

Berkshire. His house, in which he was able to make up seventy beds for the officers and soldiery who were quartered upon him in the Revolution, was always open to the deprived clergy, and became a complete hotel for friendship, learning, and distress. Bishop Ken divided his time between Shottesbrooke and Longleat House. Bowdler and his family were frequent guests, and Robert Nelson would frequently ride over from Lord Berkeley's at Cranford. Dr. Grabe always found a welcome there. Charles Leslie, disguised in regimentals, was concealed by Mr. Cherry for six months at a house belonging to him at White Waltham. The display of his horsemanship in the hunting field would sometimes pique the emulation of King William; and Mr. Cherry, observing one day that he was closely pressed by the King, risked his life for the sake of breaking the usurper's neck, and plunged into a frightfully deep and broad part of the Thames, in the hope that William might be induced to follow. To the Princess Anne he would always pay the most particular attention, riding up to her calash; but when she assumed her father's crown the Queen missed Mr. Cherry from her side, and pointed him out in the distance to her attendants, saying, 'There goes one of the honestest gentlemen in my dominions.'"—*Memoirs of the pious Robert Nelson.*

9½ m. **White Waltham** has a commonplace rebuilt church. In the chancel is an E.E. double piscina, with a Purbeck middle shaft (restored). Some of the old window-frames (of church) have been left, and bear 17th and 18th cent. dates scratched on them outside; and under one, E.E., in N. transept, is "Miserere I.H.S." Just outside the churchyard wall on the W. are the original village stocks and whipping post. Hearne, the antiquary, was a native of the village, his father being the parish clerk. The moated manor-house (now a farm) was once the residence of Prince Arthur, son of Henry VII. An entry in the parish register, 1652, records that Mr. John Blower was vicar from 1577 to 1644. Preaching once before Queen Elizabeth, he addressed her as "my royal queen," which a little while after he changed to "my noble queen." "What," said her majesty, "am I ten groats worse than I was?" This pun so overwhelmed the preacher that he never ventured on a sermon again, but always read a homily.

13 m. A mile and a half S. of Maidenhead, on the r. bank of the river is ✠ **Bray**, supposed to be *Bibracte* of the Itineraries. The large church (133 × 54 ft.) is mainly E.E. and Dec., with a Perp. tower over the S. porch; but restoration, as in so many churches in the E. part of the county, has destroyed all the interest of the fabric. There are, however, *brasses*:—(1) Sir John Foxley, with two wives, ? 1378 (good); (2) Wm. Dyer, 1440; (3) Sir Wm. Laken, 1475; (4) Clement Kelke, 1593; (5) Wm. Smith, 1594; (6) Thos. Attlude; (7) Cicely and Arthur Page, 1610; (8) A desk-kneeler brass, *c.* 1610, with a pretty inscription—

"When Oxford gave thee two degrees in Art,
And Love possessed thee, Master of my Heart,
Thy college fellowship thou left'st for mine,
And nought but Death could sep'rate me from thine."

On this last monument are seen the same balls with leaden rosettes that appear on the Van Lore monument at Tilehurst (see Route 5).

There is also a painted monument to the Goddards, 1622, and a grey slab to Wm. Norreys and twelve children, 1591.

The modernised building N. of the church, now part school, part dwelling-house, was once a chantry chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

The chief celebrity of Bray in common estimation arises from its versatile vicar, Simon Aleyn (d. 1588), who is described by Fuller as living under Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth, and being "first a Papist, then a Protestant, then a Papist, then a Protestant again. He had seen

some martyrs burnt at Windsor, and found this fire too hot for his tender temper. This vicar being taxed by one with being a turncoat and an unconstant changeling, 'Not so,' said he, 'for I have always kept my principle, which is this, to live and die the vicar of Bray.'" Hence his declaration in the well-known ballad :—

"To teach my flock I never miss'd,
Kings were by God appointed;
And they are damn'd who dare resist
Or touch the Lord's anointed.
And this is law, I will maintain
Unto my dying day, sir,
That, whatsoever king shall reign,
I'll be the Vicar of Bray, sir."

In connection with another vicar, the story is told that James I., when hunting one day, "rode on before his hounds to search for luncheon, and came to the inn at Maidenhead; when the landlord lamented that he had nothing left in his house, for the Vicar of Bray and his curate were upstairs, and had ordered all that there was, but perhaps they would allow him to join them. The king went upstairs and asked permission, which was glumly given by the vicar, but cordially by the curate. All dinner time the king told so many stories that he made them roar with laughter. At last came the bill, when the king, searching his empty pockets, protested that he had left his purse behind him, and could not pay: upon which the vicar angrily protested that he would not pay for him, but the curate expressed his pleasure in being able to make some return for the amusement he had given them. The bill paid, they all went out upon the balcony, when the huntsmen, riding into the town and seeing the king, went down upon one knee in the street, as was then the custom. The vicar, overwhelmed with confusion, flung himself at the king's feet, and implored forgiveness; to which James replied, 'I shall not turn you out of your living, and you shall always remain Vicar of Bray; but I shall make your curate a Canon of Windsor, whence he will be able to look down both upon you and your vicarage.'"

W. of the church, 200 yds., is the *Jesus Hospital*, founded by Wm. Goddard, 1627, for 40 poor persons. He was a free brother of the Company of Fishmongers. His effigy is placed over the door, with his own arms and those of the company on either side of it. They are repeated in the silver badge worn by the pensioners. The pretty red-brick buildings, with their row of bell-shaped yews, enclose a flower-planted quadrangle. The porch contains the original poor-box of 1635, and fronting the porch is a debased chapel.

Bray parish has eight outlying dependencies.

2 m. W. of Bray is the picturesque and beautiful (restored) manor-house of *Ockwells* or *Ockholt*. It is timber-built, and probably the work of Sir John Norreys, 1466. The old hall, with its panelling and fine painted glass, deserves careful attention. Among the coats-of-arms in the heraldic glass are to be seen those of Henry VI. and Henry VII., with the Norreys' coat and their motto "Feythfully serve" many times repeated. The manor was originally granted, 1267, to Rich. de Norreys, cook to Eleanor, wife of Henry III.; and Sir Wm. Norreys, who commanded the king's army at Stoke, died seized of it in 1507. It afterwards passed to the Fetti-places.

1 m. down the river from Bray is *Monkey Island* (a favourite "row", from Eton), so called from a pavilion built there by the 3rd Duke of Marlborough, covered inside with paintings of monkeys by *Clermont*.

14½ m. MAIDENHEAD (see Route 3).

ROUTE 3.

READING TO MAIDENHEAD

(By Wargrave and Bisham).

25 miles.

Wargrave, Remenham, Hurley, Bisham, Cookham, Maidenhead.

The road lies through rather hilly country ; the surface is fair except in wet weather.

The road from Reading to Twyford (5 m.) is described under Route 2. At Twyford a road turns to the left, and reaches at

6½ m. ✠ **Wargrave**, a pretty riverside village, with a ferry across the river. The *Church* is much modernised and of little interest. It has a massive W. tower of brick (1515) covered with ivy, and a N. door Norm. with exaggerated chevron moulding on jamb-shafts. Inside is a faculty pew of Bear Park in the N. transept, with some Jacobean oak. The oak pulpit bears coats-of-arms, the date 1615, and initials A. W., for Anthony White, a former vicar. In the churchyard are two fonts, one Norm., the other Perp. ; the one at present in use is modern. Here is a monument to Mr. Day, author of *Sandford and Merton*, who was killed here by a fall from his horse. The sign-board of the "George and Dragon" (a copy only swings before the door, the original is inside), was painted by the two R.A.'s, Leslie and Broughton.

Just beyond Wargrave is passed on the r., *Wargrave Hill*, a small but beautiful park, once the residence of Cowper's friend Joseph Hill, the "Septus" to whom so many of his letters are addressed. The road from here to Henley is pretty and wooded, keeping the Thames close on the left. It passes through the grounds of *Park Place*, which has beautiful hanging woods upon the chalk cliff, here rising nearly 300 ft. above the river. In the grounds is a cromlech, presented to General Conway (the friend of Horace Walpole) by the inhabitants of Jersey, and removed from a hill near St. Helier's in 1785. It consists of 45 granite stones, and is 66 ft. in circumference. A tunnel in the cliff leads to a miniature (so-called) amphitheatre. The house commands lovely views, and a cedar is said to have been planted by George III. when a boy.

9½ m. Henley (*stat.*) on the other side of the river. (See *Handbook to Oxfordshire.*)

Remenham, 1 m. N. of Henley Bridge, is a pretty village backed by high wooded hills. The little *Church*, once Norm., was rebuilt 1870, but contains *brasses*, Thos. Maryet, 1591, and John Newman, rector, 1622. Opposite Remenham, on the Bucks bank, is Fawley Court, well-known to visitors to Henley, and just below is the *Island*, with a small Grecian temple, whence the boats start for Henley Bridge at the regatta.

From Henley a pretty but hilly road leads through well-wooded country E. to Hurley. The grounds of *Park Place* (see *ante*) are on the rt. going up the hill.

13½ m. ✠ **Hurley** is a very picturesque and interesting village, with some old timber houses. Here Geoffrey de Mandeville, who fought at Hastings, founded a Benedictine Monastery in 1086, the revenues of which were at the Dissolution valued at £121 18*s.* 5*d.* It was a cell of Westminster, and was consecrated by St. Osmond, Bishop of Salisbury, in whose diocese Hurley then was. "One great wood called Hurley Wood" was settled by Henry VIII. on the Abbot and Convent of Westminster "for ever," in exchange for "their garden, called Covent Garden." The chapel of the Priory remains as the Parish *Church*. It is a long (107 × 20 ft.) Norm. building of flint, without aisles or break in the roof-ridge. The large Norm. W. window and segmental doorway were much modernised at a restoration in 1852, when the blocked windows in the N. wall were opened. At the same time a "Norman" screen replaced the blank brick wall which previously cut the building in two. There are two mutilated 17th-cent. monuments to the Lovelaces; a *brass* plate to John Doyley, 1492, on which Hurley is called a "*per-celebris locus*" (it owed its reputation to its being the burial-place of Edith, sister of Edward the Confessor); and mutilated legends, "Jesu, mercy," "Lady, Help." Immediately N. of the Ch. is a quadrangle called Paradise, having the Church on its S. side, and the old refectory on the N.; this last building is Norm. below, and Dec. above on the S. side, with modern plates inserted; and on N. has mouldings of good Dec. windows. W. of church are two large barns with open roofs like the refectory; and there is an ancient dovecot with innumerable chalk pigeonholes inside.

E. of the church are the picturesque grounds of *Lady Place* (the convent was dedicated to the Virgin Mary), once the seat of the Lovelaces, of whom the best-known was Richard Lord Lovelace, an ardent favourer of the Orange cause in 1688. "This mansion, built by his ancestors out of the spoils of Spanish galleons from the Indies, rose on the ruins of a house of our Lady in this beautiful valley, through which the Thames, not yet defiled by the precincts of a great capital, rolls under woods of beech, and round the gentle hills of Berks. Beneath the stately saloon, adorned by Italian pencils, was a subterranean vault, in which the bones of ancient monks had sometimes been found. In this dark chamber some zealous and daring opponents of the government held many midnight conferences during that anxious time when England was impatiently expecting the Protestant wind."—*Macaulay*, vol. ii. It is said that these vaults were made subservient to the Meal-Tub Plot by Dangerfield, and the spot where the meal tub stood, in which the papers implicating several Roman Catholics were found, is still pointed out. The house itself, which was "a perplexing labyrinth of panelled rooms," some of the paintings on which were attributed (entirely without foundation) to Salvator Rosa, was wantonly destroyed in 1837, and portions of the vaults are now all that remain. The last inhabitant of Lady Place was the brother of Admiral Kempenfelt, of the "Royal George," and here he and the Admiral planted two thorn-trees which he took a great pride in. Portions of the vaults (once a crypt of the Priory, where it is said bodies wrapped in the remains of their Benedictine habit have been found) are all that now remain of the house; but the greensward, grey monastic buildings, red-brick garden walls, noble cedars, and gleaming river form a very charming picture.

Skirting the fine park of Temple House, the road reaches at 16 m. **Bisham.** The scenery of this beautiful spot is well known from the pictures of De Wint and other water-colour artists, who have portrayed the broad sweep of the river, the gigantic trees, the Church, and the abbey with its mossy roof, projecting oriels, and tall tower, in every effect of cloud or sunshine.

Bisham Abbey. Bisham, or Bustleham as it was then called, originally belonged to the Knights Templars, who established a Preceptory here on land given by Robert de Ferrariis (*temp.* King Stephen). The Preceptory was dissolved in the reign of Edward II., at the suppression of the order. In 1338 Bisham was refounded by William de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, as a Priory of Augustine Canons, and was made the chief of five monasteries; part of the *Brass* commemorating its foundation is in Denchworth Church (*q.v.*). The Priory was surrendered July 5, 1536, but was refounded in 1537, as a Benedictine Mitred Abbey, for an abbot and 13 monks, with a revenue increased from £285 to £661. The new Abbey was of short continuance, and was surrendered July, 1539. The last Prior, William Barlow, was made Bishop of St. David's, and marrying, had 5 daughters, each of whom became a bishop's wife.

Among the noble persons interred in the conventual church were Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, the patron, moved here from Cirencester; William Earl of Salisbury, his son, who fought at Poictiers; his son John Earl of Salisbury, attainted and beheaded 1400; his son Thomas Earl of Salisbury, who died at the siege of Orleans in 1428; his son-in-law Richard Neville Earl of Salisbury, beheaded at York in 1460 for his attachment to the Yorkist cause; his two sons, Richard Neville, the King-maker, and John Marquis of Montague, who fell in the battle of Barnet, 1471; and his great-grandson Edward Plantagenet, Earl of Warwick (son of George Duke of Clarence, by Richard Neville's daughter Isabel), beheaded in 1499 on a charge of attempting to escape from the Tower. None of these monuments exist now, though they were not destroyed at the dissolution, but were standing in the hall within the last century. Tradition relates that William, Earl of Salisbury, going to the Holy Land, came to Bisham Abbey to take leave of his friends, when his daughter, a nun at the Convent *De Fontibus*, at Little Marlow, met him. A squire, who had been in love with her before, persuaded her to elope with him, and they escaped in a boat, but were taken at Marlow. She was sent back to her convent, and he was shut up in the abbey tower, whence he tried to escape by means of a rope made from his clothes torn into shreds; the rope broke, and he, dreadfully injured, was taken into the abbey, where he afterwards became a monk.

Bisham was granted by Henry VIII. to his repudiated wife Anne of Cleves, but, owing to his dying soon after the grant was made, the privy-seal was not affixed to the deed till the reign of Mary. There is a letter in the British Museum from Anne of Cleves, entreating the Queen for the sake of their dear father and brother to allow her to exchange Bisham with Sir Philip Hoby for his house in Kent. The Hobys were friends of Cecil, and some curious letters to him from Philip Hoby remain in the Public Record Office. In one of them Hoby humorously threatens him with all sorts of ills if he continues to decline his invitation to pass his Christmas at Bisham.

Sir Philip Hoby was the last English papal legate at Rome, where

he died, and his brother Sir Thomas was ambassador in France, and died in Paris, 1566. The widow of the latter had both their bodies brought back to Bisham, and erected for them a magnificent monument still to be seen in the church, on which, being the most learned lady of the period, she wrote three epitaphs in Greek, Latin, and English, one of them ending in the lines,

"Give me, O God! a husband like to Thomas,
Or else restore me to my husband Thomas."

The first part of the prayer was fulfilled in her marriage to Lord John Russell in 1574. She died 1609.

The two sisters of Lady Hoby (daughters of Sir Antony Cooke) were Lady Bacon and Lady Cecil, and to them was given the care of the Princess Elizabeth; but they, not liking the office, were allowed partially to transfer their trust to their brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Hoby, who succeeded Sir Philip at Bisham. In this way Elizabeth came to spend part of 3 years here, when the bow-window in the great chamber was thrown out for her and the daïs erected 16 in. above the floor. That her residence at Bisham was not disagreeable is seen from her speech to Sir Thomas when he first went to court after she became Queen: "If I had a prisoner whom I wanted to be most carefully watched, I should intrust him to your *charge*; if I had a prisoner I wished to be most tenderly treated, I should intrust him to your *care*." The present house was built (*temp.* Elizabeth) by the Hobys, though the Hall must be referred to Montacute's foundation. It is about 60 ft. long, and has a dark oak gallery, and a buttery hatch at one end. In the dining-room is a picture of Lady Hoby, with a very white face and hands, dressed in the coif, weeds, and wimple. then allowed to a knight's widow. The effect of the picture is very spectral, and has probably given rise to the ghost story of the house. In this dress Lady Hoby is still supposed to haunt a bedroom, where she appears perpetually trying to wash her hands; but it is remarkable that the apparition is always in the negative, the black part white, the white black. The legend is that, because her child William Hoby could not write without making blots, she beat him to death. It is certainly curious that about 1840, in altering the window-shutter, a quantity of children's copy-books of the time of Elizabeth were discovered, pushed into the rubble between the joists of the floor, and that one of these was a copy-book which answered exactly to the story, as if the child could not write a single line without a blot.

Behind the tapestry in one of the bedrooms (representing the history of Tobit) a secret room was discovered with a fireplace, the chimney of which is curiously connected with that of the hall for the sake of concealing the smoke.

The *Bath* of Princess Elizabeth is no longer in the grounds at Bisham; the spring which supplied it is still left.

The *Conventual Barn* of Spanish chestnut, and the original moat round the garden, still remain.

The *Church*, beautifully situated among the trees on the l. (the river running within twenty yards of the tower) has been largely rebuilt. The Hoby Chapel on the S. was built, *c.* 1600, by Lady Hoby to commemorate Sir Thomas, her husband, and his brother, Sir Philip. Here she raised the great tomb of Italian alabaster, with its fine figures (notice the minute detail of armour) and interesting inscription, showing how Sir Thomas

"In his floure in Paris towne he died,
Leaving with child behind his woful wief
In foreign land opprest with heapes of grief
* * * * * *

The corps with honour brought she to this place,
Performing here all due unto the dead.
That doon, this noble tombe she caused to make."

Here is also a monument, surmounted by an obelisk and swans, to Margaret Hoby (1605). The inscription states that she was "never mother, and the best wife," and also "neare of the bloode" to Elizabeth (they were first cousins). The armorial window in the chapel, with its rare enamelled glass, is a well-known and very fine example. Notice the great coat of Thomas Hoby, with 39 quarterings. The last heir male of the Hobys died 1766. Other monuments are a much patched Purbeck altar-tomb very similar to one at Cookham, and *Brasses* to John Brinckhurst, 1581 (good), Thomas Creckett, 1516, Christopher Gray, 1525. There is also a small sculptured monument to two children, whose mother, a very old legend says, was Queen Elizabeth!

The beautiful woods that rise behind Bisham and flank it on the E. are known as the Quarry Woods. The spire seen to the N. is that of All Saints', Great Marlow (Bucks), and it is by passing through this town and turning r. that the traveller will best reach Cookham. Recrossing the Thames,

22 m. ✠ **Cookham.** A pretty village lying low on the river, with a *station* on the Maidenhead-Thame branch. It has a fine green at its southern end, crossed by a causeway and a road defined by white flood-posts. The *Church*, which is close to the river and the bridge, is of flint, much patched with brickwork. It has been rebuilt and "restored," till it lacks all interest. In the chancel is a Perp. altar-tomb (cf. a strangely similar monument at Bisham) with canopy and a *Brass* to Robert Pecke, "master clerk of the spycery under K. Harry the Sixt," and Agnes his wife (1510). There are mutilated *brasses* to John Babham and wife (1458), Richard Babham and wife (1527); also to Margaret Monkden, with her two husbands (1503), and *brass plates* to Agnes Myles (1500), and George Wellden (1616). Near the chancel, in the floor, is a stone to Anthony Turberville (a member of the great Dorset family, familiar to readers of "Tess"), "one of the gentlemen of his Majesty's troop of guards, slain in a skirmish at Warminster, 1688." At the W. end of the nave is a medallion to Fred Walker, the well-known artist, and in the N. aisle a curious monument by Flaxman to Sir Isaac Pocock, drowned in the Thames in 1810. There is a desk-kneeler to Arthur Babham, his wife, and six children, one of the daughters being named Colubra (cf. Hurst).

The road from Cookham to Maidenhead Bridge follows, in part, the course of the river (for scenery *see* Maidenhead).

25 m. ✠ **MAIDENHEAD** (*stat.*). A market town on the r. bank of the Thames, singularly devoid of objects of interest. The name is fancifully derived from the head of a certain British Virgin (one of Ursula's 11,000 martyrs) presented to a church here; but "head" is really "hythe," and Maidenhead may be interpreted either as the "wharf by the great hill," or as the "midway wharf." The population in 1891 was 10,607, and 12,980 in 1901. The town has no staple industry, but is dependent for existence on the attractions which the neighbouring scenery offers to visitors and residents, and shares in the advantages and disadvantages of an "up-river" and "week-end" place. Cliveden, Dropmore, and Burnham Beeches are all close at hand; half a mile above the bridge is the famous Boulter's Lock,

where as many as 1000 boats have been dealt with in a day, and the beauties of the reach above, with the Cliveden Woods and Formosa Island, are well known. If Maidenhead is now largely maintained by the River, it was certainly brought into existence by the Road. Like so many other towns which supplied the wants of travellers along the great highways, it originally consisted of one long street, lined with inns and posting-houses. A guild for the maintenance of a wooden bridge here was incorporated as early as 1352, and the Corporation were allowed three oak trees from Windsor Forest every year for its repair. On this bridge a fierce skirmish took place in 1400, between the newly made King Henry IV. and the partisans of Richard II. The present handsome structure, with its stone balusters, was built in 1772 at a cost of £20,000. The tollboard still announces that all "Berlins, chariots, calashes, or other carriages drawn by six horses," shall pay 1*s.*, a distinction shared by "eight-horse wains." The railway bridge, a little to the S., was built by Sir Isambard Brunel, each arch being 128 ft. across, perhaps the largest brickwork span in the world. All the churches are modern: that of St. Andrew and St. Mary (re-erected in 1826) was formerly served by the Vicar of Hurley. He was allowed (*temp.* Queen Elizabeth), an extra stipend, as amends for the danger of passing through Maidenhead Thicket, a wood infested by highwaymen, about 2 miles W. of the town; a fine avenue now marks the spot. Bordering on the road, in the direction of the river, are two adjoining blocks of almshouses, one built by Baron Hirsch out of his racing winnings, and the other by James Smith in 1659. Let into the wall of the latter, and about four feet above the roadway, is a stone showing the high-water mark reached by the great floods of November, 1894.

At Maidenhead, in July, 1647, Charles I., after some years of separation, was allowed to meet his three children at the old Greyhound Inn. The town was strewn with flowers, and decked with green boughs. They dined and drove to Caversham, where apartments were prepared in which they passed two days together.

ROUTE 4.

READING TO VIRGINIA WATER.

(By Wokingham and Ascot).

15 miles.

Earley, Bear Wood, Wokingham, Shinfield, Arborfield, Swallowfield, Finchampstead, Sandhurst, Hurst, Easthampstead, Binfield, Warfield, Winkfield, Ascot, Sunninghill, Virginia Water.

The road lies through flat country, and the surface, though sandy, is generally good, especially after showers.

1½ m. **Earley.** It was in this village, now a suburb of Reading, that the once famous seat of *Whiteknights* stood. Sir H. Englefield built the house on the site of a leper hospital, and it afterwards became the property of the fourth Duke of Marlborough, who rendered its gardens celebrated for their trees.

Half way between Earley and Wokingham, a mile to the r. of the road, stands **Bear Wood** (A. F.

Walter, Esq.), a landmark to all the country round. The large red brick and stone mansion stands in a well-timbered park. The lake, 43 acres in extent, is one of the largest pieces of artificial water in the kingdom. The house has a gallery, 70 ft. by 24 ft., which contains a fine collection of pictures, chiefly of the Dutch school of the 17th century. The most remarkable are: *Paul Potter*, a cattle-piece, painted on wood, signed and dated 1647: "At a certain distance the effect of the animals is that of life itself, and the carefulness of execution is such — for instance in the ear of the light-coloured cow—that the delusion of reality is increased on the closest inspection" (*W.*); *Sasso Ferrato*, Virgin and Child; *Gonzales Cocques*, a family group in a landscape: "one of the finest works of this rare and charming master" (*W.*); *Francesco Albano*, Christ appearing to the Magdalen; *J. Baptista Weenix*, a seaport: "a rich picture, clear in colour, and careful in execution" (*W.*); *Abraham Mignon*, a fruit-piece; *Johann George Plazer*, two pictures, "richly finished, but crude and unmannered."

There are also works by J. Both, Wouverman, W. van Mieris, Ochterveldt, Van Goyen, Berckheyde, Brekelenkamp, P. Neets, N. Maes, Hondekoeter, Zorg, Van Stry, etc., and there is a portrait of Mrs. Walter by Benjamin Constant.

The modern *Church* contains a monument to John Balston Walter, "who died rescuing his brother and cousin from the frozen lake at Bear Wood, Christmas Eve, 1870" (æt. 26). The well-kept churchyard has a fine view to the N.

Sindlesham, which lies below, and has been almost entirely rebuilt during the last few years, consists of two or three score of cottages, an inn, and a school, built by the late Mr. John Walter, and enlarged in 1896.

5½ m. ✠ **Wokingham** (formerly spelt Ockyngham), a bright little market town with many gabled houses, on rising ground on the skirts of the old Royal Forest. It gave the title of Baron to Prince George of Denmark, the husband of Queen Anne. Before the opening of the rly. it was in a somewhat secluded position, and the sport of bull-baiting is said to have been carried on in it later (1821) than at any other place in England. In 1661, one George Staverton left by will the rent of a house at Staines, to be used in the purchase of a bull, which was to be baited at Wokingham every Christmas.

The *Church* of St. Lawrence, with a stunted W. tower, has been restored till it is uninteresting. There is a lofty Perp. arcade, a good Perp. font, a curious *brass c.* 1600, and a royal arms of Queen Elizabeth. At Chapel Green, a short mile S. of the town, are the picturesque red-brick almshouses erected by Henry Lucas in 1665, and now sheltering thirteen bedesmen. There is a small chapel in the S. wing.

Among the charitable endowments of the town is a bequest of £43 a year by Archbishop Laud, to be employed every third year in providing dowries for poor maidens, and the other two years in apprenticing boys belonging to the parish.

The Rose Inn at Wokingham gave rise to the song of "Molly Mog"; the story being that Gay, Swift, Pope, and Arbuthnot amused themselves, when detained here by the wet weather, in the composition of a song, to which each contributed a verse in turn, taking the fair maid of the inn as their subject. "John Mog was then landlord of

the Rose, and had two daughters, Molly and Sally, of whom Sally was in fact the cruel beauty and the subject of the song. But each wit was too far gone to distinguish—

> 'His senses all lost in a fog;
> And nothing could give satisfaction
> But thinking of sweet Molly Mog.'

So the honour, if honour there be, has clung to Molly, who, after all, died a spinster in 1766, at the age of 67." The lover, who is represented as pining for her, is said to have been the last heir male of the Standens of Arborfield (*q.v.*).

The line from Staines here joins the Reading branch of the S.E. Rly.

Lying W. and S. of Wokingham are Shinfield, Arborfield, Barkham, Swallowfield, Finchampstead, and Sandhurst.

Shinfield, a scattered village. The *Church* is mainly Dec. and Perp., much modernised, and has one of the 17th-cent. red-brick W. towers, so common in this neighbourhood. At the E. end of the S. aisle is a debased chapel, built by Edward Martyn, dated 1596, and initialled $\frac{\text{E.}}{\text{E. M.}}$ In the church are some stone coats-of-arms, and desk-kneelers to the Martyn family (1607) and Henry Beake (1627).

1 m. E., on the Basingstoke road, is *Three-Mile Cross*, Miss Mitford's "Our Village." Descriptions of local scenery abound also in her "Recollections of a Literary Life." She afterwards lived at Swallowfield, and died there.

Arborfield. In Arborfield Old Manor-house (which has made way for a modern Arborfield Hall) lived the family of Standen in the 16th, 17th, and 18th cents., and here died, about 1730, Mr. Edward Standen, last heir male, and luckless lover of Molly Mog (*vide* Wokingham), at the age of 27. This house is described in "Our Village" as the "old house at Aberleigh," and its picturesque stables (dated 1654) still remain. In the grounds is the derelict *Church* of St. Bartholomew. The roof was removed as unsafe 1863, but the N. aisle was rebuilt in 1869, the date of the final dismantling of the rest of the fabric. This aisle is divided into two portions, and in the easternmost is an altar-tomb to Wm. Standen, 1637. In the ruined chancel is a *brass plate* to Thos. Haward (1643).

At *Barkham* 2 m. E., in the modern *Church*, is preserved a female wooden figure, *c.* 1350.

Swallowfield. The *Church*, much modernised, and of little interest, is hidden in the trees of *Swallowfield Park*. The belfry is supported on hewn oak timberwork, and there are good *Brasses* to Christopher Lytcott, 1554, and Margaret Letterford, *c.* 1450. At the W. end of the church is a stone coffin, said to be of Sir John le Despencer, who founded the church. Tradition says he was beheaded, and that when the coffin was dug up the head was found outside it. He founded the church, and his name survives in *Spencerswood*, the title of a neighbouring village. In the churchyard (from which there is a pretty view of a five-arched bridge over the Blackwater), Miss Mitford, authoress of "Our Village," was buried, 1855.

About 1 m. W. of the church is *Farley Hall*, a picturesque red-brick Georgian house, in a well-timbered park.

From Swallowfield a good road leads to Basingstoke, 11 m.

For *Beech Hill* and *Beaumyss Castle* (2 m. W.) see under *Stratfield Mortimer* (Route 5).

Finchampstead has a *Church* (74 × 38½ ft.), originally Norm. with a semicircular apse and an effective 17th-cent. brick tower. The windows are mostly Dec., with modern insertions at the E. end of the apse and elsewhere. The font is good Norm. There are *brass* plates to Eliz. Bligh, 1635, and to "Henry Hynde Gent., Purveior to Kinge Henry the Eight, Kinge Edward ye Sixt, Queene Mary, Kinge Philipe, and Queene Elizabeth, of their stables, who for his true zeale in Religion was a perfect Merror for his ensuinge Posteritie to imitate" (1580). He thus weathered exactly the same reigns as did his better-known fellow-countryman the Vicar of Bray. The church is strikingly situated on the summit of a little hill, and there are fine views S. from the churchyard.

The fine undulating country between Finchampstead and Sandhurst is known as *Finchampstead Ridges*. The general characteristics of the extreme S.E. of the county are sandy soil, bracken, ling, and thickly planted firs and hardwood trees. The district between Sandhurst and Ascot is exceptionally deserted, and the traveller may go for miles without seeing house or man.

For *Nine-Mile Ride* see *Easthampstead*.

4 m. S.W. of Wokingham are *Wellington College*, the *Royal Military College* at Sandhurst (each has a *station* on the Reading and Reigate line), and *Broadmoor Prison* for criminal lunatics.

Wellington College was founded in memory of the Great Duke, primarily for the education of sons of officers of the army, and the first stone was laid by Queen Victoria, June 2nd, 1856. It occupies a wild and elevated situation on an open sandy height, and has a fine view over the country. Its buildings and arrangements are those usual in a great public school.

The *Royal Military College* at **Sandhurst** is near the station, but 2 miles from the village. It had its beginnings in 1799, at High Wycombe, but the Duke of York, its founder, transferred it to Great Marlow in 1802; and in 1812 it was moved to Sandhurst, when the present buildings were erected. It is encircled by fir plantations, and has an extensive lake which is made use of for instruction in pontooning.

The *Church* of Sandhurst is modern and poor; the fine Norm. font, the last vestige of the older building, was taken away to make room for one "sculptured" by a former rector's daughter. There is a *brass* to Richard Geale, 1608.

3 m. N. of Wokingham is **Hurst**, a pleasant and very scattered village. The *Church* (101 × 56½ ft.) has been robbed of much of its interest by ruthless restoration and rebuilding. There is an hour-glass stand with painted scroll work: "E.A. 1636" (cf. Binfield), a Jacobean pulpit and fine screen painted and gilt with arms, and the cognisance of Henry, Prince of Wales, son of James I.

The church contains interesting monuments, mostly of the 17th cent. In the N. chancel aisle is a sumptuous Jacobean monument to Lady Margaret, widow of Sir Henry Savile, Provost of Eton, and founder of the Savilian Professorship at Oxford. She was thrice married, and is represented kneeling with Sir Henry under a canopy with four other figures, probably meant for Lady Carleton and Lady Harrison on the W., and Lady Sedley and her husband on the E. Here is also a high tomb with *brass* to Richard Ward, "Aulæ Proquestor" through four reigns (*ob.* 1574), with

Colubra his wife, and seventeen children. A *brass* plate to Richard Kippax, 1625, sometime "Examiner in the Star Chamber" has "elegiac or mournful verses," to the effect that "his Soule winged with an ambitious fire, toll'd him there was a New Star Chamber higher." In the floor is a curious *brass* to Alice Harrison (*c.* 1600), daughter of Richard Ward, "cofferor" (subtreasurer) to Queen Elizabeth. She is represented lying in a four-post bed, referring to her death in childbed. There are interesting monuments to Henry Barber (1651), and to Richard Harrison (1683), who raised two troops of horse for Charles I. The Harrisons lived at Hurst Place, an Elizabethan house where once the Queen of Bohemia (*see* Hampstead Marshall, Rte. 5) spent some time. Of Hurst Place nothing remains except two vases, which flank the entrance to *Bill Hill*, a house 1½ m. from Wokingham on the Twyford road. Secretary Windebank, the friend of Laud, was a native of Hurst, and was visited there by him when Bishop of St. David's, on which occasion, as he records in his Diary, he preached several times in the church (once on the occasion of a public fast, July 20th, 1625), and also visited Hurst Place.

There is a fine churchyard yew. S. of the church are the red brick almshouses of William Barber, 1664, and N. are the grounds of Hurst House, a Queen Anne mansion. E. of the church stands the picturesque "Castle Inn," better known as the Church House, and attached to it is a fine bowling green, with turf as ancient as the yews that shade it.

9 m. **Bracknell** (*stat.*).

1 m. S. of Bracknell is **Easthampstead**, with a pretentious modern *Church*, which contains, however, a *brass* to Thomas Berwyk, 1443, rector of the parish, and monuments of Sir William Trumbull (d. 1716), Secretary of State in the reign of William III., and his lady, the friends and correspondents of Pope. Here is the monument of the poet Fenton, also a friend of Pope, with an epitaph by him, 1732. He had long resided in the Trumbull family as tutor, and he died here, "of indolence and inactivity," as Pope declares in one of his letters.

In the church are four windows by Burne Jones. The glass in the E. window is in the artist's best manner, and represents a Last Judgment, with S. Michael the patron saint of the church. 1 m. S. of Easthampstead church is *Cæsar's Camp*, a wooded mound now surrounded by a double ditch. It lies about 300 yards S. of the road, and is of little interest. It is at the head of *Nine-Mile Ride*, a perfectly straight road, which, after running five miles E., through picturesque pine country, finishes abruptly at a brick-kiln. Here are many traces of Roman roads (one called the Devil's Highway), running to Silchester.

N. of Bracknell are Binfield, Warfield, and Winkfield.

Binfield, a scattered village. The *Church* is much rebuilt and uninteresting. Such features as have been spared are mainly Perp., but have been carefully brought into harmony with the modern work. It has a *brass* to Walter de Annefordhe (*c.* 1350); a Jacobean pulpit with an elaborate hourglass-stand of painted ironwork, bearing the arms of the Smiths' and Farriers' Company of London, 1628; and a copy of Erasmus' Paraphrase of the Gospels, placed in the church by order of Edward VI. in 1547. On the N. is a pleasant rectory house. In the churchyard is the grave of Catherine

Macaulay, the female historian of the 18th century; her principal work was the "History of England from the Accession of James I. to the Revolution." She died at Binfield, June 23rd, 1791. Binfield was the early home of Pope, who speaks of his father's house here as—

> "My paternal cell,
> A little house, with trees a-row,
> And, like its master, very low."

1½ m. from the church, in the woods of *Binfield Park House*, is a grove of beech-trees, which was a favourite resort of the poet, who is said to have composed many of his earlier pieces beneath a tree which formerly existed here, with the inscription: "Here Pope sung," but which is now destroyed. W. of Binfield is *Billingbear Park*, a fine Elizabethan mansion (modernised) with many mullioned windows. The grounds are rich in fine oaks.

Warfield, a scattered village, has a fine *Church* (117 × 52 ft.), mostly Dec. with Perp. modifications. In the chancel notice a S.E. angle staircase to leads, the E. window, sedilia, *low-side window*, piscina with curious niche below it, and roodloft stairs which still give on to the left. The wooden screen (formerly used as Lord Ormathwaite's pew) is mainly old, the stone screen mainly new; and there are two squints. In the N. chancel aisle are some remains of niches and canopy work of clunch, also two desk-kneeler monuments without inscription. There is a good desk-kneeler to Thomas Wilkinson, 1611, and a good many bits of old painted glass, among which are some pretty censing angels in the E. window.

Winkfield is a very scattered village, and the parish, 10,000 acres, one of the largest in Berks. The *Church*, rebuilt and without interest, is divided down the middle by oaken pillars, one of which bears the initials E. R. and date 1592. It contains a monument to Lord Metcalfe (d. 1846), of Indian celebrity, with an epitaph by Lord Macaulay. There is also a *brass*, which represents Thos. Montagu, in his dress as yeoman of the guard, holding his halberd in one hand, and with the other distributing loaves to the poor (d. 1630).

11½ m. ✠ **Ascot** (*stat.*). The *Racecourse*, with its handsome Grand Stand, is very near the stat., and occupies an elevated situation, which commands fine views over the surrounding country, consisting of heathery downs, interspersed with woods of fir and birch. The course is circular, and is only short of 2 m. by 66 yds. The first half is on the descent, and the last half, called the Old Mile, is up-hill the greater part of the way. The last 1½ m. of the track is called the Swinley Course. When the rest of Windsor Forest was enclosed, the racecourse and the avenues thereto were directed by Act of Parliament to be "kept and continued as a racecourse for the public use at all times." The races, which take place early in June, were founded by the Duke of Cumberland (the hero of Culloden), one of the most conspicuous characters on the English turf of past days, and the breeder of the famous horse Eclipse. "From the death of Charles II., till the period of the Duke's coming upon the turf, racing had languished, perhaps from want of more support from the Crown and the higher aristocracy, and H.R.H. was the man to revive it. This was not effected without difficulty. Having, however, the military maxim of 'Persevere and conquer,' he was not deterred from the object of his pursuit, till he became possessed of the best stock, best blood, and most numerous stud

in the kingdom." The races are very popular, the presence of royalty adding interest to them. A cup was given to Ascot Races by the Emperor Nicholas of Russia after his visit to England; this being refused at the time of the Crimean war, the gift was continued by the Emperor of the French.

14 m. **Sunningdale** (*stat.*) is a comparatively newly settled district on the border of the forest; and close to it is **Sunninghill**, where there is a small inn called the *Wells Hotel*, once celebrated for the two chalybeate springs which still remain in its old-fashioned garden, and which were a great object of resort from Windsor. The church was rebuilt in 1828, and has lately been restored. The churchyard has a fine old yew tree. In the vicarage garden are three trees, planted by Burke, Chesterfield, and Bolingbroke respectively. The country here is entirely occupied by a succession of parks and gentlemen's seats, and the roads are lined with villas. Some fine holly hedges relieve the suburban aspect of the district. In this parish was once the Benedictine Nunnery of Bromhale; no remains of it now exist.

At Sunninghill Walter Scott visited Canning's friend George Ellis, and "Mr. and Mrs. Ellis heard the first two or three cantos of the unpublished 'Lay of the Last Minstrel' under an old oak in Windsor Forest."

15 m. **Virginia Water**, the largest artificial lake in the kingdom, formed at great expense, and fed by a running stream, which escapes from it in an artificial cascade by the side of the Bagshot road. The banks, though flat, are beautifully wooded; they are adorned on one side by a Swiss cottage, which has replaced the *Chinese fishing-temple*, from the gallery in front of which George IV. used almost daily to enjoy the amusement of angling; and on the other by fragments of a picturesque *colonnade* of porphyry, granite, and marble, brought from the ruins of Leptis Magna, near Tripoli. Upon the lake used to float a miniature frigate. Other objects in this part of the grounds are the *Hermitage*, on a height overlooking the water; the *Belvedere*, a turreted triangular building, with a battery of guns, used by the Duke of Cumberland in the campaign of 1745; and near the Bagshot road is a sort of grotto, formed of stones dug up on Bagshot Heath, and supposed to have been a cromlech.

At Virginia Water is a *station* on the branch of the South-Western Railway from London to Reading.

ROUTE 5.

HUNGERFORD TO READING.

(By Kintbury, Newbury, and Aldermaston).

25 m.

Shalbourne, Inkpen, West Woodhay, Avington, Kintbury, Hampstead Marshall, Enbourne, Speen, Sandleford, Thatcham, Woolhampton, Brimpton, Wasing, Aldermaston, Padworth, Ufton, The Sulhampsteads, Burghfield, Stratfield Mortimer, Beenham, Bucklebury, Stanford Dingley, Yattendon, Ashampstead, Bradfield, Theale, Englefield, Tidmarsh, Calcot House, Tilehurst.

The gradients on the Bath road are slight, and the surface is good, but apt to get loose in summer. Road, railway, river, and canal, run side by side down the Kennet valley.

HUNGERFORD (see Route 12).

From Hungerford, Shalbourne, Inkpen, and West Woodhay, may conveniently be visited.

Shalbourne, is a parish partly in Wilts, 4 m. S.W. from Hungerford. The *Church* is prettily situated, and a small stream runs by the churchyard. The tower has been rebuilt, and the S. aisle is new. The chancel is exceedingly good Dec.-Perp., with 2-light windows N. and S., of beautifully simple design and good work. The E. window is of 3-lights, which are taken into the head and cinquefoiled; the jamb-shafts and mullions are excellent, and there is a beautiful interior wall-arch with shafts and mouldings. Notice Norm. N. and S. doors, and E.E.—Dec. piscina. There is a very good recessed and canopied altar-tomb to Francis Choke, 1562; he lies in armour with his feet on a dog and his hand on a book. The inscription (remarkable for the date) reads: "Praye ye al for the sole of Francis Choke desessed in the yere of oure Lord A 1562."

Jethro Tull, who immensely improved agriculture by the introduction of drill machinery, and otherwise, resided at Prosperous Farm in this parish in 1730, and introduced here his new methods of farming.

3 m. E. of Shalbourne is **Inkpen**, in a romantic situation under the down. It has a *Church* (68 × 35½ ft.) well and sumptuously restored, and largely rebuilt. The N. aisle is new, with original N. wall. E.E. windows inserted; the modern screen and rood-loft by *Hemms* are good. There is a pleasing 3-light Perp. window, and a cross-legged effigy in the chancel. Close to the church is the pleasant Rectory, *c.* 1700, with a fine alley of bowering limes.

Here in S. Berks, the chalk which has dipped under the tertiary beds of the Kennet Valley rises up again and reaches its highest elevation in England, in Walbury Camp, and Inkpen Beacon, nearly 1000 ft. above sea-level. *Walbury Camp* is 1 m. S.E. of Inkpen Church, and can be reached by a bad and hilly road. It is a fine oval earthwork (783 × 550 yds.) with single trench and rampart. Half a mile W. of the Camp is *Combe Gallows*, from which a magnificent view is obtained. The existing gibbet is the third restoration of the original gallows, on which were hanged (March 7, 1676), George Browman and Dorothy Newman, for the brutal murder of

two children of hers by a former husband. The bodies were hid in a pond at the spot. The maintenance of the gibbet is made a condition in the lease of *Eastwich Farm*, at the foot of the hill. Here lived from 1560 to 1880 a family of the name of Kimber. Mr. Richard Kimber salted a chine of pork on the day the murderers were hanged on Combe Gallows, and it was sold with the house when the recent agricultural *débâcle* forced the Kimbers to part with the place.

Close to Inkpen is *Kirby House*, which belonged to the Brickenden family, but was rebuilt 1733. Admiral Franklin, who bought it, *c.* 1760, put in it four fine pieces of tapestry which tradition says he "looted" from a Spanish man-of-war. In 1790 Kirby House passed to the Butlers, a member of which family became possessed of the rectory 1758; and in the drawing-room is a portrait of Bishop Butler, of "Analogy" fame.

West Woodhay, 2 m. E., is a small and scattered village just under the downs. *West Woodhay House* contains the nucleus of a house built in 1635, by Inigo Jones, for the Darells. It has been much altered and enlarged, but retains some of its old features, including good doorways over which are inscriptions: "Nisi Dominus ædificet frustra." "Exprome famelico animum tuum." "Perfla hortum meum." The situation is beautiful, and the house looks full on to the down, over a magnificent sweep of lawn with some ornamental water. The flower and fruit gardens are fine, and there is an iron gate with good scrollwork. Close to the house is an old graveyard, once attached to a *Church*, built 1717, but now demolished, of which the outline is traced in box-bushes. The present church is modern.

Bishop Ken was rector of E. Woodhay (Hants), 1669, and resigned it in 1672, in favour of Bishop Hooper. At the same place lived Charles White, a notorious horse-stealer. Of his four sons, three were transported, and one hanged, for horse-stealing. The father came to the gallows at Reading, Mar. 26, 1814. His "life" and the sermon of the chaplain to a "crowded audience, in the gaol chapel" the Sunday before his execution, were printed and distributed as "rewards of merit, for the benefit of the Scholars of the National School at Reading."

2 m. **Avington.** The Church and Rectory form a pretty group on the banks of the Kennet, embowered in trees, among which are some good elms and two snow-broken cedars. The long low *Church* ($76\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{3}{4}$ ft.) is Norm. and interesting. An E.E. arch has been opened in the N. wall, and an E.E. window has been moved from the N. wall into the modern vestry. The windows are Norm.; those at the side somewhat unusually broad, and at the E. end is a triplet of small Norm. windows. The chancel has been prepared for two bays of vaulting (of which the dividing pillars, and the rib-springers remain), but the vaulting seems not to have been finished. The vaulting scheme was probably abandoned through weakness of the foundations, and a "settlement" has broken the back of the richly-carved chancel arch. The font is rough Norm. It has 13 figures in panels, of which as many interpretations have been given; they probably represent the 12 Apostles, with Judas, who carries the bag and is being tempted by the Fiend. There is an E.E. *low-side window* on the S., and the S. door is rude but vigorous Norm. A Norm. stoup and a shaft with early patterning have been placed in the nave.

Near the church is a sunny house representing the old mansion of the Chokes, built 1574, and burnt *c.* 1770. The old house, which had "a room carved and gilded in the style of the Elizabethan age," received a visit from Anne of Denmark (James I.'s Queen) in 1612. An unsupported tradition places "a monastic cell" at Avington, and points to the stone-coped garden walls, and the dripstone of a window in the barn for confirmation.

3 m. One mile S. is **Kintbury** (*stat.*) or Kennet-bury, given by Elfrida to the nunnery founded by her at Amesbury. After the Dissolution it was purchased by John Cheyney, and afterwards was for long the property of the Darrells of Littlecote.

The *Church* (113 × 22½ ft.) is cruciform, with a low massive E.E. tower of which the W. door is Norm. The tower-arch, N. transept-arch, and chancel-arch, are all Trans.; the latter has squints at the side. The S. door is good Norm., but the church has been spoilt by restoration, and the interior is unpleasing. There are two characteristic *Scheemakers* monuments to members of the Raymond family, several inscriptions to the Darrells, and a monument to Charles Dundas, who represented Berks for more than 50 years in ten successive parliaments. He was created Baron Amesbury of Kintbury, July 16, 1832, and died June 7, 1833, when the title became extinct. There is also a brass to John Gunter, 1624; his wife Alice is buried at Cirencester, where the executors erected a duplicate brass.

2½ m. S.E. of Kintbury is **Hampstead Marshall**. It has a *Church* (77½ × 30 ft.), which has been first Jacobeanised and afterwards (1893) Gothicised. The N. arcade is good Perp., and there is a Dec. niche on the N. that looks like an Easter sepulchre. The fittings are Jacobean; and the communion cup and good pulpit were given in 1622 by the widow of Sir Thos. Parry, once Lord of the Manor.

The Manor of Hampstead was bestowed by Henry I. on one Gilbert, who took the name of Marshal, from his office in the royal household. His grandson was John the Marshal, whose controversy with Becket about the manor of Pagham, in Sussex, gave occasion for the proceedings against the archbishop. His son was William, created Earl of Pembroke, who became the Protector of the kingdom on the death of King John. His five sons, who all became earls of Pembroke, all died without issue, and this extinction of the male line of John the Marshal was popularly looked on as a proof of the abiding anger of St. Thomas of Canterbury. The earldom of Pembroke was bestowed by Henry III. on his half-brother, William de Valence, but the marshalship and the manor were conveyed by Maude, the Protector's daughter, to her husband, Hugh Bigod Earl of Norfolk. From him they passed to his son and his nephew, both named Roger; but the latter, after a fierce contest with Edward I., had to surrender them (1302), when they were regranted to him for life only. On his death the office and the manor were separated, and while the former was granted to succeeding earls or dukes of Norfolk, the latter passed through various hands. In the time of Elizabeth it belonged to Sir Thomas Parry, the treasurer of the royal household, who built himself a stately mansion. In 1620 this was purchased by Sir William Craven, afterwards Lord Craven, and the faithful lover of Elizabeth of Bohemia (*v.* Ashdown Park). It was to please the "Queen of Hearts"

that he pulled down Parry's house, and replaced it by a stately pile that might remind his lady of the Castle of Heidelberg. The architect, Sir Balthazar Gerbier, died on a visit to Hampstead, 1667, and is buried in the church. In 1718 the great house was entirely destroyed by fire; its cellars can be traced just on the top of the hill, above the church. Here, on a breezy rise, are also eight pairs of splendid gate pillars, some in brick, others in stone with scolloped niches, urns, and fruit-and-flower reliefs. A ninth pair has been taken away and erected at the entrance to *Benham Park*. Close to the house are a walled garden of 8 acres, a more modern grandstand, and an abandoned racecourse. Hampstead Deer Park is very fine, with splendid timber, great slopes of bracken, much ornamental water, and a double avenue leading up to the present house.

Enborne, 2 m. E., a village on the fringe of Hampstead Park, has a restored *Church* built on a rise at the end of a pretty valley. In the nave are three fine Norm. bays with massive pillars and good capitals. A blocked N. arcade was opened in 1893, and a new aisle built; at the same time a round arch replaced the E. E. chancel arch. There is a double E. E. piscina, a rough but elaborate arcaded font, Norm., with curious emblems in the arcade, debased Perp. E. window, a 14th-cent. fresco in chancel, and a W. bell-cote carried on interior wooden frame.

There are two manors in Enborne, in which the same custom once prevailed as at Chaddleworth (*q.v.*), that widows who had by incontinency forfeited their free-bench, or life interest in their husbands' copyhold, could only recover it by riding into court on the back of a black ram, reciting a ridiculous rhyming petition. The custom has been long abandoned, perhaps (as Lysons says) on account of "the difficulty of procuring a proper animal for the purpose."

6 m. **Stockcross** (*stat.*). On the rt. of the road between Stockcross and Speen is *Benham Park*, with a house built in the Classic style (*see* under Hampstead Marshall).

7 m. **Speen**, or **Church Speen** (*Stat.*), the ancient *Spinæ* (*see* under Newbury), The *Church*, rebuilt, contains a monument to John Baptiste Castillion (1598) and to Dame Elizabeth Castillion, his daughter-in-law, who is represented habited in a farthingale, flowered gown and veil. The Castillions were Piedmontese, and were granted Benham Park by Elizabeth.

8 m. NEWBURY (*stat.*). (*see* Route 7).

1½ m. S. from Newbury is *Sandleford Priory* (a "parish" containing thirty inhabitants) which stands on the site of a priory for Austin Canons, founded *c.* 1200 by Geoffrey, Earl of Perche, Earl Marshall of England, and Maud, his wife. Its revenues were given to the Chapel of St. George, Windsor, *temp.* Edward IV. Sir Francis Moore, of Fawley, owner of Sandleford *c.* 1620, had a dispute with the Rector of Newbury about fees, and, on covenanting for an annual payment of £8 to the Rector, got Sandleford declared "no part of the parish of Newbury," and free of all other dues. Edward Montagu, of Denton Hall, Northumberland, bought the property, 1730, and for his widow the house was rebuilt by Wyatt. Mrs. Montagu was celebrated for the literary society of which she was the centre. Johnson, Goldsmith,

Burke, Reynolds, Beattie, and Mrs. E. Carter were among her constant visitors. "Dr. Stillingfleet was in the habit of attending her literary parties in a full suit of cloth, with blue worsted stockings, and rendered himself so entertaining that the ladies used to delay their discussions until his arrival, declaring, 'We can do nothing without our blue stockings'—whence the *bas bleu*. Mrs. Montagu converted the old chapel of the Priory (which contained an interesting tomb of a Crusader, possibly the Earl of Perche) into a dining-room, connecting it with the house by an octagon drawing-room—a fact noticed by Mrs. H. More in one of her letters. Madame D'Arblay mentions a visit here; and Cowper has immortalised the feather hangings in the lines—

> 'The birds put off their feathery hue
> To dress a room for Montagu.'

Mrs. Montagu died in 1800."

11 m. **Thatcham** (*stat.* 1 m. S.), a large village, was formerly the most extensive parish in Berks, with the exception of Lambourn, and 30 miles in circumference. It was also a place of some importance, and possessed a market established before 1135, and specially protected by Henry II. against any encroachments of Newbury men. The base of a *Cross* remains in the centre of the village. The large flint *Church*, mainly Perp., has suffered restoration, but has a good Norm. S. doorway, with fish-tail moulding. The pillars of nave are Trans. Norm., and in the tower are a Dec. doorway and window. In the Fuller Chapel, E. of S. aisle, is a desk-kneeler to Nicholas Fuller, 1620, and in the chancel an altar-tomb to Sir W. Danvers, Judge of Common Pleas, 1504; also a modern copy of a *Brass* to Thomas Loundye, 1433, with a pretty variant of the ordinary "*Quisquis eris.*" In the tower is a plate to John Godfadyr. In the register is an entry "1572 Maye ye xxvi Day of this month was John Rastall buryed who was kilde uppon Whitsonday at the Quinteine."

At the E. end of the village is an old *chantry chapel* founded by Sir Richard Foukerham, 1334. It has two defaced niches at the W. end, a piscina *in situ*, and a blocked Perp. doorway on the S. Much of the roof appears to be original. The building seems to have been used as a chapel-of-ease after the Dissolution, and was bought by Lady Frances Winchcombe, of Bucklebury, and turned into a charity school in 1707. Her institution still supports 20 scholars, whose blue tail-coats and corduroys add picturesqueness to the village green.

On the l. of the road between Thatcham and Woolhampton is the modern church of *Midgham*. *Midgham House* and *Woolhampton House* stand in fine parks.

14½ m. ✠**Woolhampton**, a pleasant village, with a *station* called Midgham, and a *Church* at Upper Woolhampton, ¾ m. away. The present building dates from *c.* 1860, when the old church was destroyed. At that time a unique Norm. font of stone, with an arcade and figures of lead, together with some *brasses*, were flung into a grave under the present church, and buried. Just beyond the church is the Catholic College of St. Mary, founded 1838, but with good modern additions in red brick. There are 10 professors, and about 100 boys.

Woolhampton is a convenient centre, from which a group of villages on either side of the great West Road may be explored. These are, on the S.: Brimpton, Wasing, Aldermaston, Padworth, Ufton

Nervet (with Ufton Court), Sulhampstead Abbots, Sulhampstead Bannister, Burghfield, Stratfield Mortimer; and, on the N. of the read: Beenham, Bucklebury, Stanford Dingley, Frilsham, Yattendon, Ashampstead, and Bradfield. The country round Woolhampton is of great variety, and pretty at all seasons of the year. In the Kennet valley the land is largely under tillage, but the hillsides are thickly wooded with oak, beech, and pine. A feature of the district is the number of ancient commons, often covered with a tangle of thorns, brambles, sloes, hollies, and bracken. Such are the commons of Ashampstead, Frilsham, Cold Ash, and Burnt Hill. On the Upper Common at Bucklebury (which extends over 700 acres), the Bradfield road is bordered, for over a mile, by a noble double avenue of oaks. These trees are said to have been planted on Queen Anne's accession, and to have formed part of a vast avenue, which led to old Bucklebury House (*q.v.*). The outer line of trees on either side of the main avenue was planted in 1815, to commemorate Waterloo. The winding lanes are often deep in sand and littered with flints, but are always picturesque. There is a hilly road leading from Bradfield to Aldworth (6 m.), which passes through Bradfield Woods, and is bordered near Aldworth by a triple row of yews. Woolhampton is a favourite neighbourhood for artists.

1½ m. S. of Woolhampton is

Brimpton. The *Church* is modern. The Templars had here a Preceptory, which, at the dissolution of the order (1312), passed to the Hospitallers. The chapel (30 × 15 ft.), a most interesting building, still remains, though desecrated. It stands close to Brimpton Manor (a pleasant farmhouse) and is built of flint. The E. window (blocked) is good Dec.-Perp., of 3 lights. On the S. wall is a blocked piscina, and on the N. a single very long lancet. There is an interesting N. door, round-headed, with the scale diaper in the tympanum, and a raised Maltese cross in high relief. Close to the house are the remains of a moat; and in the meadow Brimpton Flour Mills, a sober-coloured pile in brown and yellow roughcast, built 1737.

½ m. E. across the fields is Shalford Farm—also a property of the Hospitallers—with a date of 1582 on the front of the house. It is picturesquely situated on the Enborne stream, and in the watermeadows is a raised yew alley, called the "Nuns' Walk."

The road from Brimpton to Newbury passes over Greenham Common, and has fine views N. and S.

Wasing, 1 m. E. of Brimpton, has a small *Church*, *c.* 1730, though there are earlier dates on the outside, and some traces of E.E. work. There is some Flemish glass dated 1629—1669, and a tablet on the E. end outside to "Thomas Worrall Rector of Wasing for 42 years excepting the years y^t^ he was banisht for his loyalty." The church is most beautifully situated in the park of *Wasing Place* (a modern brick house), and near it are some fine cedars and yews.

1 m. E. of Wasing is

✠ **Aldermaston**, with a *station* 1¾ m. N. of the village. Close to the station is a picturesque little wharf, forming part of the Kennet and Avon Navigation system. This "backwater of the world," with its trees, reflections, and barges daubed with red and green, is worth a visit. A small carrying trade is done here in osiers (for basket-making), withy-timber (for bats), wooden barrel-

hoops, and now and then a load of coals. The G.W.R. killed the Bath road traffic in 1847, and bought up the Kennet navigation in 1852. There are still, however, many osier-beds along the Kennet, which were once much more valuable than they are now.

The village is very pretty, and at the top of it are the fine lodge-gates of *Aldermaston Court*. They were brought here from Midgham House by Mr. Congreve, whose falcon crest appears at the top of them. The manor of Aldermaston was granted, *c.* 1120, to Robert Achard by Henry I., and the last of the line died in 1353, leaving an heiress, who brought the estate, by marriage, to Sir Thomas de la Mare. His granddaughter and heiress married Sir George Forster, of Harpenden, whose family held Aldermaston till 1711. From them it passed, by marriage, through Lord Stawell to Ralph Congreve. "A memorial of this Lord Stawell exists in the coronet inwoven in the ornaments of the beautiful iron gates; almost the only memorial he has left, except the tradition of his insatiable love of gambling, which reduced his estate to an inalienable residence, and gave rise to the local proverb, 'When clubs are trumps, Aldermaston House shakes.'" Sir Humphrey Forster pulled down the old house in 1636, and built another, which was destroyed by fire in 1843. The modern Elizabethan mansion, built by *Hardcastle* (1851) for Mr. Higford Burr, stands on a new site, but contains the fine old staircase with its balustrade of figures (engraved by *Nash*), the roof and some of the stained glass from the old Hall, with the arms of its former possessors, the Forsters, and their alliances with the families of Delamare, Sandes, Hungerford, Barrett, Kingsmill, Harpsden, Milborne, Achard, and Popham. The clock-tower is conspicuous from the railway. Evelyn mentions the old house as built *à la moderne*, and the dedicatory inscription which adorned it,—

Hump. / Anna } Forster { Vivimus et ædificamus uno animo, Utunque Deo et Fato consecravimus, 1636—

and some of the old buildings, remain behind the present conservatory.

The *Park*, which is one of the wildest and most varied in this part of England, is 5 m. in extent, and contains 1000 acres. There is a broad lake, and the fern-clad deer-paddocks are studded with old thorn-trees, cedars, yews, and gigantic oaks, whilst several portions of the old lime avenues remain. The common snake abounds in the park, for Mr. Higford Burr protected it; and as he paid 6*d.* apiece for live specimens, the country people collected them and brought them to him by sackfuls at a time.

In the park, very near the house, is the *Church* ($102 \times 41\frac{1}{2}$ ft.), carefully restored. It needs attentive examination. It has no continuous centre-line to the roof, and the windows are set at curiously different levels. There are three so-called *low-side windows*, of which the N.W. is said to be for looking at the St. Christopher. Notice the figure of Christ, *c.* 1320, in this fresco, also that of a mermaid. The middle part of the church is probably the oldest, but there is a Norm. W. doorway built into the Dec. W. tower. There is a mixture of early and late Norm. detail in this doorway, and attention should be given to the patterned shafts, the shallow cable in the head, and the finely executed birds in the capitals. There are many good flowing Dec. windows; and small roodloft windows are seen on both sides, but the loft is gone. On the N. of the

nave notice eight heraldic shields in painted glass, also an Annunciation and Coronation of the Virgin, *c.* 1250. A good Elizabethan pulpit and sounding-board remain. There are *brass* inscriptions to Wm. Forster, 1574, and to four virtuous sisters, daughters of Sir Humphrey Forster, *c.* 1638; but by far the finest monument is the large and beautiful alabaster altar-tomb of Sir George Forster, 1526, and his lady (Eliz. de la Mare). Twelve sons in armour, and eight daughters in the angular head-dresses of that period, are represented under canopies round the side; the knight's feet rest upon a hind, his crest (a Hind's Head) is still the sign of the village inn; and a tiny dog bites the gown of the lady. Some of the detail is very curious, and the undercutting in the heads of the canopies over the weepers is fine. The knight wears the collar of S.S., and his gauntlets (broken) are at his side. The lady has a necklace with a small heart-pendant. In the Rutland Chapel, Windsor, is a counterpart of this tomb.

The country round Aldermaston is well wooded and of great beauty, and Silchester is within easy reach.

Padworth, 2 m. N.E., has a small Norm. apsidal church (51½ × 19 ft.). The chancel arch has rich capitals, and the apse is vaulted. The late Norm. N. and S. doorways are very good, and there is a Trans. piscina. This most interesting building has been maltreated by "restoration"; and the windows in the apse, including the E. window, are modern insertions. An incongruous porch and vestry have been patched on to the S. side. Close to the church is *Padwortk House* (*c.* 1800), a conspicuous object from the Bath road. The family of Coudray formerly held Padworth manor by the service of providing a sailor to manage the ropes of the Queen's ship whenever she passed into Normandy.

1½ m. N.E. of Padworth is **Ufton Nervet.** Midway between the two villages, on the rt. of the road, is Ufton Court.

Ufton Court, an historic mansion, is finely situated on the brow of a hill, with a walled terrace at the edge, and is approached by a double avenue of oaks. It is of three stories, but from its great length preserves the repose of a two-storied house. It is built on the usual E. plan, slightly modified, and there are no less than nineteen continuous gables. It has much brown woodwork, thrown up by the sober yellow of the roughcast walls: and with its overhanging stories, projecting porch, and massive chimneys presents an effective and harmonious picture to the visitor approaching from the E.

The house, though older in parts (*e.g.* the kitchen), is in the main Elizabethan, and was built by Elizabeth, widow of Sir John Mervyn, whose initials are seen in the hall. She purchased the property, then called Pole Manor, in 1568, married Richard Perkins, and died 1581. The internal fittings, however, of the N. side date largely from the time of Queen Anne, when that portion of the mansion was rebuilt, to provide fitting accommodation for the celebrated Arabella Fermor. The exterior was altered back to conformity with the southern portion—which is mainly original—in 1838. The heavy leaden spouting is dated 1664. The lords of the manor of Ufton, from about 1400 till 1769, were the Parkyns or Perkins, from whom the property passed through several hands to its present owner, Mr. Benyon, of Englefield. The Perkins were recusants, and the house contains several hiding-holes for priests, in

one of which two petronels were found some years ago, whilst another once communicated with the cellars, and so, through a secret exit, with the woods. One of the numerous Francis Perkins married, in 1715, Arabella Fermor, the reigning beauty of the day, and the heroine of Pope's "Rape of the Lock." The house abounds in oak-panelled rooms and oaken staircases. The library is a delightful room, and contains the original mantelpiece: on it is carved F. P. (Francis Perkins) and the date 1583. The oratory, priest's room, chapel, and long gallery are also shown. The hall, which was formerly entered directly from the porch, is well-proportioned, and possesses a handsome stucco ceiling with pendants, and a black and white marble floor. It dates from about 1570, and the minstrels' gallery still exists behind the plaster-covered hoarding at the southern end. Here "the charitable bequests of Lady Mervyn (or Marvyn)—bread and good flannel and calico—are still distributed to the poor of Ufton and Padworth every Mid-Lent by their respective rectors and churchwardens; and, according to an old and carefully observed custom, the Ufton folk receive their portions out of one window, while their neighbours of Padworth are served through another." (Lady Marvyn was first the wife of Richard Perkins, and died in 1581.) From the hall the original principal staircase leads to the first floor, where is a chamber, on the fireplace of which the date 1534 is rudely cut. The little room over the porch is charming. The kitchen, dining-room, and drawing-room are interesting, but are not usually shown. At the back of the house was once a fine terrace, where Arabella must often have walked. The original flight of steps leading to the *parterre* remains. The old red-brick wall of the flower-garden, with its entrance gate fronted by two enormous yews, and its ruined grass terraces sloping to the river and marked by lines of trees, is very picturesque. There are seven fishponds cut in the side of the hill, fed by a spring at the top and discharging into the stream below.

The barn, to the left of the entrance to the eastern front, possesses a fine open roof.

Permission to view the house is kindly accorded by Captain Sharp, the present occupier, to whom a written application should be made.

The *Church*, half a mile to the N.E. of Ufton Court, was entirely rebuilt in 1862. It contains the mutilated monument of Richard Perkins (1560), a tomb to Francis Perkins, his wife, and two sons (1615), and a *brass* to William Smith and his wife (1627). Also *brass plates* to Margaret Perkins (1641), Francis Perkins (1660), and Frances Hyde (1686). In the rectory garden, at the end of a fine yew walk, are some stone shields belonging to the monument of Richard Perkins.

About a mile S.W. of the church, at the end of the village, stands an ivy-covered wall, the only remains of the church of *Ufton Richard*, once a chapelry of Ufton Nervet.

E. of Ufton are the two Sulhampsteads and Burghfield.

Sulhampstead Abbots has a small *Church* ($65 \times 27\frac{1}{2}$ ft.), largely rebuilt. There is a good Norm. arcaded font, and from the churchyard a distant view of Reading is obtained.

Sulhampstead Bannister has an extraordinary little *Church*, *c.* 1800, and both villages are well-wooded.

Burghfield, pronounced, and once written, Burfield, is a large and scattered village with a modern

Church. Under the tower are preserved stone effigies of a knight and lady, and an oaken effigy of a knight (14th-cent.) which should be compared with the wood figures at Sparsholt. Bolingbroke wished Swift to take the living of Burghfield in exchange for his deanery.

3 m. S. is ✠ **Stratfield Mortimer,** a straggling village with a *station* on the branch of the G.W.R. between Reading and Basingstoke; from it Silchester may conveniently be reached. In the large modern *Church* are inscribed *brasses* to Rich. Trevet, "alias dictus Hasylwode, valectus:" and Joanna his wife, 1441. In the vestry is an inscribed slab to Ædelward, perhaps Ealdorman of Hampshire (*c.* 1000). This was found underneath the chancel of the old church.

About 1 m. S. of Mortimer passes the "Devil's Highway," the great Roman road to the West, which connected London (*Londinium*) with Bath (*Aquæ Solis*) by way of Staines (*Pontes*), Silchester (*Calleva*), Speen (*Spinæ*), and Marlborough (*Cunetio*). For some miles here it forms the southern boundary of Berks, and traces of a small Roman settlement have been found on it at Wickham Bushes, Easthampstead.

2 m. W. of Mortimer is the village of *Beech Hill.* Here, in 1338, Nicholas de la Beche (see *Aldworth*), built a castle called *Beaumyss* or *Bealms.* It underwent "an outrageous assault in 1352, when John de Dalton, coming with an armed force, killed Michael de Poynings, Thomas le Clerk, and others; frightened the chaplain to death; and carried off several prisoners, among whom was Margaret, Lady de la Beche." The site is now an overgrown enclosure of about an acre in extent, surrounded by a well-defined moat. From the de la Beches the neighbouring village takes its name. Some 300 yards S. of Beaumyss Castle is *Priory Farm,* built on the site of a priory of St. Leonard, founded in 1170, attached to the Abbey of Vallemont, in Normandy, and suppressed as an alien house in 1400. The house bears the date 1648, but is much modernised. Near by is an ivy-covered dovecot.

2 m. N.E. of Woolhampton is **Beenham,** with a *Church* rebuilt in 1859. It contains a monument to the Rev. Thomas Stackhouse, author of the "History of the Bible," many years vicar (d. 1752, aged 72). He was a remarkable man, but his life presented a sad picture of the consequences of intemperance. "He would often stray down to a public-house called Jack's Booth, on the Bath Road, and stay there for two or three days at a time; it is even said that a great part of his History was written in an arbour at the bottom of the garden. He would come up hence on a Sunday morning, ask pardon of God in the pulpit for his folly and wickedness, and warn his congregation against the vice of drunkenness; yet he would probably in a week or two again yield to the same temptation."

3½ m. N.W. of Woolhampton is **Bucklebury.** The manor belonged to Reading Abbey, and at the Dissolution, 1539, was bought by John Winchcombe, son of "Jack of Newbury" (*see* Newbury). He built here a house as an approach to which the great avenue on Bucklebury Common (*q.v.*), is said to have been afterwards planted. In 1700, Frances Winchcombe, the heiress, married Henry St. John, Viscount Bolingbroke, whose courtesy was

so great, that "to make St. John more polite" was an impossibility. Pitt said, "I would rather have a speech of Bolingbroke's than any of the lost treasures of Antiquity," and Swift that "Bolingbroke would plod whole days and nights like the lowest clerk in an office." He never cared, however, for his wife, and left her after 15 years of neglect. At Bucklebury he received a visit from Swift in 1711, which the latter thus describes in a letter to Stella :—"Mr. Secretary was a perfect country-gentleman at Bucklebury; he smoked tobacco with one or two neighbours; he inquired after the wheat in such a field; he went to visit his hounds, and knew all their names; he and his lady saw me up to my chamber just in the country-fashion. His house is just in the midst of £3000 a year he had by his lady, who is descended from Jack of Newbury, of whom books and ballads are written; and there is an old picture of him in the room. She is a great favourite of mine." It was at Bucklebury that Swift strove to heal the breach between Harley and Bolingbroke, until "having lost all hopes of reconcilement," he retired to Letcombe Basset to await the issue of the quarrel, and there wrote his "Enquiry into the Behaviour of the Queen's last Ministry." The house was pulled down in 1833, though some of its offices remain, and the deserted grounds, with fish-ponds and fine timber, are very picturesque.

The *Church* (110 × 33½ ft.) is pewed and interesting. The chancel was largely rebuilt *c.* 1700, and has since been restored; on a tie-beam of its roof is "1591 Francis Winchecom Esquier build this." The N. arcade is Trans.; the S. doorway very rich late Norm., with a curious cross springing from the top of the arch (figured in Lysons). The church belonged to Reading Abbey, but the N. aisle is reputed to have been built by the Hospitallers. In it is a blocked Perp. doorway, with a badge above it (perhaps a bird's talon), which is said without sufficient authority to be the badge of a Master of the Hospitallers. In a N. window of the chancel has been placed some heraldic glass (from the old house), and a painted sundial dated 1649. Notice a wonderfully realistic fly painted at the side of the dial. Swift is said to have preached from the pulpit. On the tower are sculptured a crucifixion, a mutilated Maltese cross, and a rebus of the Winchcombes, a figure combing a wink or wheel. The inscription below it has never been satisfactorily deciphered, but seems to be John Winchcom, written (as in a carving at Newbury) without the vowels. There is the wreck of a fine yew in the churchyard.

Marlstone, a chapelry of Bucklebury, has a rebuilt church with a plain Norm. N. door.

About 2 m. E. of Bucklebury is **Stanford Dingley**, a picturesque, low-lying village, in which Thos. Tesdale, the founder of Pembroke College, Oxford, was born 1547.

The churchyard is surrounded by fine Spanish chestnuts. The *Church* (61½ × 31) dedicated (like Stanford-in-the-Vale) to Saint Denis, is interesting. It has bold Trans. arcades, and a wooden W. tower carried on interior Perp. framework. Notice the S. door E.E. trefoiled, with a good pointed arch over it, and a curious roundel ornament introduced in the head; a strange E. window in the S. aisle, quatrefoiled outside and splayed widely to a circle inside; good E.E. ironwork, and original double lock on S. door; some excellent encaustic tiles stuck into the chancel arch; some remains of frescoes, includ-

ing a Last Judgment, Moses with the Tables, and St. Denis. There are *brasses* to Margaret Dyneley, who died on the feast of St. Romanus (Aug. 9), 1444; John Lyford 1610, and a civilian *c.* 1560. Stanford Dingley is one of seven villages on the little river Pang. It rises near Hampstead Norris, and joins the Thames at Pangbourne.

Frilsham, a mile N. of Marlston, has a small rebuilt Norm. *Church* (69 × 18½ ft.) with Norm. S. and N. doors.

Yattendon, about 2 m. N.E. of Frilsham, had once a weekly market and two annual fairs; it is now a pretty little village under the ægis of Mr. Waterhouse, whose modern red-brick house occupies a commanding position on the hill above. The church (93½ × 20½ ft.) was built *c.* 1450, by Sir John Norreys, and is excellent Perp. throughout. Notice the E. window of 5-lights, the square-headed S. door, and the rood-stair carried in a buttress turret on the N.

Sir John Norreys (Master of the Wardrobe to Henry VI.), built here a manor-house (crenellated 1447, but long since disappeared); and Henry Norreys was beheaded, 1536, by Henry VIII., on a charge of criminal intimacy with Anne Boleyn. Elizabeth championed the cause of the family, and another John Norreys was created a peer by her "for his father's suffering for her mother's sake." He died 1597, and lies under a tomb in the church. The immense epitaph records his services in France, Ireland, and the Netherlands; and it is said that chagrin at their not being better rewarded hastened his death (see *Wytham*).

S.E. of the church, ½ m., are some very ancient chalk-workings—locally known as "angles"—now blocked and overgrown.

A very beautiful woodland lane, often embowered completely in trees, hazels, and high hedges, leads (1½ m. N.) to

Ashampstead. Here is a small Trans. *Church*, badly restored, with some traces of frescoes, and a Perp. wood frame carrying a W. bellcote.

Some 4 m. S.E. of Ashampstead, and reached by a picturesque but hilly road, is

Bradfield, a very scattered village with a large but uninteresting *Church*, rebuilt 1848, by the then vicar, Rev. Thomas Stevens. Some Trans. and Dec. arches remain in the nave, and there is a Jacobean tower.

Near the church are the substantial red-brick and flint buildings of St. Andrew's College, founded by the munificence of the Rev. Thomas Stevens. It was opened as a Grammar School in 1850, enrolled as a foundation school in 1859 for 16 Founder's boys and 153 Commoners, incorporated in 1862 by Royal Charter, and has now taken its place among the smaller public schools with over 200 boys. An open-air theatre a few yards E. of the school, where it is the fashion to perform "Greek Plays," is worth visiting.

Leaving Woolhampton by the Bath road, at

16½ m. Aldermaston *station* is reached. On the rt. *Aldermaston Court* and *Padworth House* may be seen, and on the hillside on the l. *Beenham House* is conspicuous. Farther on the l., among the trees, is *Englefield Park* (see *post*).

20 m. **Theale** (*stat.*), a newly formed parish, with an 1832 *Church*, considered at the time to be "an exquisite reproduction in miniature of Salisbury Cathedral." It contains a mutilated

chantry removed here from Magdalen College, Oxford, because the colour of its stonework "did not coincide with that of the restored chapel."

1 m. N.W. of Theale is **Englefield**, a "model" village, where, in the Park or Chase, Ethelwulf, alderman of Berks, is reputed to have fought with the Danes in 871, just before the battle of Æscesdun. Simeon narrates that he urged on his soldiers, saying, "Though they attack us with the advantage of more men, we may despise them, for our commander Christ is braver than they." At any rate the Pagans were discomfited, and two of their great sea-Earls, unaccustomed to the saddle, were unhorsed and slain. This ancient manor of the Englefields was forfeited to the Crown by the attainder of Sir J. Englefield, on the charge of plotting to rescue Mary Queen of Scots. It was granted to Sir F. Walsingham, from whose family it passed to John Powlett, the Great Marquis of Winchester. He came to Englefield after the sack of Basing House, and here ended his days, 1674. *Englefield House* stands in a deer-park, on a gentle rise which commands fine views over the Kennet valley. Originally Tudor, it has been so completely modernised and altered by a late owner (Mr. R. Benyon), that little ancient is left. Here Sir Francis Walsingham received Queen Elizabeth, and built a gallery 120 ft. long (which remains in an altered state) connecting the first floor with the hillside, so that the Queen need mount no steps.

In the park is the church, which has suffered three restorations, and is now practically modern. Notice, however, a good E.E. arcade with round pillars and early sculpture in the capitals, also a good E. triplet (tampered with) E.E., in the S. aisle, and a blocked squint. In the same aisle under modern niches are a cross-legged knight *c.* 1300, and a lady in wood, stiffly carved (*c.* 1340). In the chancel is a very fine Perp. tomb in grey marble, with a delicate canopy; and in the N. aisle a black marble monument to the Marquis of Winchester, "a man of exemplary piety towards God and of inviolable fidelity towards his Sovereign; in whose cause he fortified his house at Basing, and defended it against the Rebels to the last extremity." He held Basing House for four years against the besiegers, and the legends of his cutting his motto *Aimez Loyauté* on the glass of every window; and of the house being carried by assault just as a club trump was cut at cards (hence the proverb, "clubs trumps: as when Basing House was taken") are well known. Here is an epitaph by John Dryden "poet laureat," of which four lines are worth quoting:

"He who in impious times untainted stood,
And 'midst Rebellion durst be just and good,
Rests here rewarded by an Heavenly Prince
For what his Earthly could not recompense."

The memorial slabs of the Powletts are at E. end of S. aisle in the floor. Notice the sculpture of the strange death (? by assassination) of Mrs. Mary Benyon, 1777. In the Englefield chapel N. of chancel is a "desk-kneeler" to John Englefield and family, 1605.

1½ m. N. of Englefield is **Tidmarsh**, with an interesting *Church*. It has a remarkable E.E. semi-octagonal apse (engraved in the "Glossary of Architecture"), with a lancet in each face, and E.E. vaulting shafts (restored) carried to a centre boss. The S. door is rich Norman, with fine medallion and other mouldings, and a sculptured head with nimbus in the

centre of the arch. This door is earlier in character than the rest of the building, which dates from *c.* 1240. There is an E.E. W. triplet, and the bellcote is carried on an interior Perp. framework of oak, with modern carving on the beams. The font is Trans. Norm. There are *brasses* to (1) Margaret Wood, 1499; (2) a knight in a tabard, with the arms of Achard, *c.* 1520; (3) William Dale, 1536.

Close to Tidmarsh on the E. is **Sulham**, prettily situated at the foot of a wooded hill. The *Church* is modern.

On the N. of the Bath road, 3 m. from Reading, is *Calcot House*, a fine "Queen Anne" mansion of red brick, with wings attached by covered ways, and a well-stocked deer park. "It was the seat of 'the Berkshire lady,' whose story which 'lives both in prose and verse,' is briefly this:—The John Kendrick who bequeathed £7500 to build the Oracle at Reading, for the maintenance of the cloth trade (see Rte. 2), left a noble fortune, part of which descended to a beautiful Miss Kendrick, who is described as refusing numberless offers of marriage, till at length—

> 'Being at a noble wedding
> In the famous town of Reading,
> A young gentleman she saw,
> Who belonged to the law.'

This is Benjamin Child, a barrister, to whom, on her return home, she writes a challenge to mortal combat in Calcot Park. Going thither, he finds a masked lady, who informs him that she is the challenger.

> "'So now take your choice,' says she:
> 'Either fight or marry me.'
> Said he, 'Madam, pray what mean ye?
> In my life I ne'er have seen ye;
> Pray unmask, your visage show,
> Then I'll tell you, ay or no.'
>
> *Lady.* 'I will not my face uncover
> Till the marriage rites are over;
> Therefore take you which you will—
> Wed me, Sir, or try your skill.'"

He consents to marry the masked swordswoman; they drive to church in her coach, which is in waiting, and the wedding takes place. Then they proceed to Calcot House, where he is left alone for two hours in 'a beautiful and fair parlour,' when the steward comes to question him. At length the mistress herself entering, says,

> *Lady.* 'Sir, my servants have related
> That some hours you have waited
> In my parlour: tell me who
> In this house you ever knew?'
>
> *Gent.* 'Madam, if I have offended,
> It is more than I intended;
> A young lady brought me here.'
> 'That is true,' said she, 'my dear.'

Then Benjamin Child finds himself happily married to the mistress of Calcot:

> 'Now he's clothed in rich attire
> Not inferior to a squire—
> Beauty, honour, riches, store!
> What can man desire more?'

In the parish register is recorded the birth of the two daughters of the Berkshire lady and Benjamin Child, in Sept. 1712 and Sept. 1713. It is but a century and a half ago that these events happened, in times more prosaic than our own."

22 m. Behind Calcot Park, a mile from the main road, with a *stat.* still a mile farther N., is **Tilehurst**, a large and unpleasing village-town, with an entirely rebuilt *Church*, in the vestry of which is a water-colour of the older building. Here is the *very fine* alabaster painted and gilt monument to Sir Peter Vanlore and his wife, 1627, with an epitaph—

> "When thou hast read the name, Here lies Vanlore,
> Thou needes no story to enforme thee more.
> . . . . . .
> His conversation London long approved;
> Three English monarchs have employ'd and lov'd
> His industry. . . . . .
> His soule to heaven, his earth to earth is come.
> Utrecht his cradle, Tilehurst loves his tombe."

On one side kneels a son and on the other a daughter who survived him; underneath are fine statuettes of eight predeceased daughters (two of them chrisom children), and a still-born son, who has a skull under his head. At the corners of the tomb are marble balls, having stuck into them leaden rosettes or bows. These are possibly to be attributed to foreign heraldry, and should be compared with those on a monument at Bray (*q.v.*). There is also a *brass* to one More and his wife, 1469.

25 m. READING (see Rte. 2).

ROUTE 6.

WALLINGFORD TO READING.

(By Streatley, Basildon and Pangbourne.)

14½ m.

Wallingford, Brightwell, The Wittenhams, Sutton Courtney, Didcot, The Moretons, Cholsey, Moulsford, Basildon, Pangbourne, Purley.

The road has the Thames always close on the left, and is rather hilly. The surface is good, except in wet weather.

✠ **WALLINGFORD** (*stat.*), an historical town, with many comfortable burgher-like houses. It is nearly enclosed on three sides (the river completing the quadrangle) by remarkable earthen ramparts, which have been called British, Roman, Saxon, or Danish according to the whim of archæologists, but about which nothing is really known. These earthen banks are most clearly to be seen in the grounds of the Castle, and in an inclosure called the "Kine Croft," near the railway station. The ford over the Thames must early have made the place of some importance, and it is probable that the Romans had a settlement here.

The town at the time of the Conquest was in the possession of Wygód, a Saxon Thane, who received William and the Normans in a friendly manner. His daughter and a large part of his lands were given to Robert d'Oiley, who, besides building a castle at Oxford, greatly strengthened that of Wallingford. This castle was of great importance as a fortress during the stormy times which followed. Hither the Empress Maud, mother of Henry II., fled through the snow, after her escape from Oxford Castle, to Brian Fitzcount, its owner by his marriage with the heiress of Robert d'Oiley. She was pursued by Stephen, who built a castle at Crowmarsh, on the opposite side of the river, in order to blockade her more easily, but she again escaped to Gloucester. Brian, however, held out for several years against all the power of Stephen, and when he was apparently reduced to extremity, in 1153, Prince Henry came to his rescue. A treaty was in consequence made at Wallingford, which secured the young prince's eventual succession to the throne, and Brian then did homage to Stephen. Henry II. seized on the castle and town soon after his accession, and granted a charter to the burgesses; he also held a council here in 1155. In 1231 Henry III. granted the castle to his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall, who transmitted it to his son Edmund, upon whose death it again fell to the crown, and so remained for many years. Edward II. in

1317 bestowed the castle on his queen, and from that time forth it was often used as a royal residence, and sometimes as a state prison. Joan of Kent, the widow of the Black Prince, died here in 1385, and it was the residence of the young queen Isabel during the absence of Richard II. in Ireland. It was afterwards granted to Queen Catherine, the widow of Henry V.

Leland, in the sixteenth century, describes the Castle as "sore yn ruine"; but Camden, writing somewhat later, says that its size and magnificence were still such as to amaze him, coming there, as a lad, from Oxford. Wallingford was the last place in Berkshire which held out for Charles, and was taken by Fairfax, July 27, 1646, after a sixty-five days' siege, bravely sustained by Governor Blagge. In 1652 the Castle was slighted and destroyed by order of the Council of State.

The works of the Castle are said to have inclosed ten acres: such as are left are in the grounds of the private residence of Mr. J. Kirby Hedges, and may be seen on application, or between 2 and 5 in July and August. Of the buildings practically nothing remains, but the earthworks and keep-mound (with well) still exist. The mound is planted with trees, and from the summer-house at the top are pleasant views of the grounds and river. Looking towards the Thames, on the left are two outlying blocks of ruined masonry (behind the N.W. fragment can be distinctly seen the triple trench), and on the rt., in the S.E. corner of the Castle grounds and within the earthwork, are the ruins of the church of St. Nicholas: only a shattered tower, a square-headed Perp. door, and some windows remain. The College of St. Nicholas, of which this was the chapel, was attached to the Castle by the Black Prince in 1327, Wallingford Castle being part of his inheritance. At the Dissolution the College revenues were valued at £155 per annum, and the infamous Visitor, Dr. London, Warden of New College, was its last Dean. The Priory of Black Monks within the W. Gate (a cell to St. Alban's Abbey) was suppressed by Wolsey, 1526.

Of the fourteen churches and four monastic institutions once possessed by Wallingford, only three churches remain. None is of any interest. All Hallows, St. Leonard's, and St. Peter's were all much ruinated in the Civil Wars: of *All Hallows* only the disused graveyard is left, near the Castle. *St. Leonard's*, near the river, was partially burnt, but was rebuilt in 1704; while the apse, which was part of the original plan, was again rebuilt, 1850. On the chancel arch is some Norman diaper work. *St. Peter's* was rebuilt in 1769, in the style of the period; in it is buried Sir William Blackstone, author of the Commentaries, who died in 1780. At the end of the market-place is *St. Mary the More*, a flint "town-church," rebuilt. The top part of the tower is said to have been reconstructed about 1653, and the crowns at the top of the pinnacles added at the Restoration. On the N. side of the tower a sculpture, supposed to represent King Stephen on horseback, has been built in. The pulpit is by Onslow Ford.

In the market-place is the 1670 *Town Hall*, restored, with the conventional undercroft, and a gallery whence elections were proclaimed. Wallingford returned one or more M.P.s from the reign of Edward I. down to 1885. The town is rich in charities, including one of Laud's; the almshouses, off the Reading road, were built and endowed by William and Mary Angeir, 1681. There is a good bridge of 14 arches into Oxfordshire, and every facility here for boating.

From Wallingford may conveniently be visited the villages of Sotwell, Brightwell, Little Wittenham, Long Wittenham, Appleford, Sutton Courtney, Didcot, North Moreton, and South Moreton.

1½ m. N.W. of Wallingford is **Sotwell**, with a rebuilt *Church*; close to it is **Brightwell**. The large *Church* (80 × 50 ft.), with 18th-cent. tower, has suffered more than one restoration, but there are some good Dec. windows (E. window modern and poor), two Dec. sedilia, a piscina, and some fragments of 14th-cent. glass. In the centre aisle of the nave are *brasses* to (1) Robert Court, sometime auditor to Prince Arthur (1509), and his wife; (2) Richard Hampden and wife (1515). In the S. aisle is a brass (3) to a priest with chalice, and inscription: *Hic jacet corpora* (sic) John Scolffyld, 1507.

4 m. N.W. of Wallingford is **Abbot's** or **Little Wittenham**, nestling in trees under the Wittenham Clumps. The *Church* was rebuilt 1863, with the exception of the oblong W. tower. The manor was once a possession of Abingdon Abbey; it passed through the Barnes to the Dunches, who lived here from *c.* 1550 to 1719, when they became extinct. The fine manor-house of the Dunches was pulled down *c.* 1800. To this family are many memorials in the church, preserved from the wreck of the older building. Under the tower are two fine recumbent effigies of Sir William Dunch (1611) and his wife; she was sister-in-law to John Hampden, and aunt to Oliver Cromwell. Here is also a good *brass* to William Dunch, "esquire sworn-extraordinary for the body of our sovereign lady Elizabeth"; and brass plates to Walter Dunch and wife (1594), Sir William Dunch, John and Mary Barnes (1586), and William Winchcombe (1614). The latter was a member of the great Bucklebury family, and married the heiress of the Dunches. In the chancel is a Perp. altar-tomb to Walter Kidwelly (1483), with good *brasses* to himself and Cecilia his wife, and a plate to Anne Dunch, an infant (1683).

Behind Little Wittenham rises the double-topped hill of *Sinodun*, whose summits, with their clumps of beeches, form remarkable and conspicuous objects in all views of the district. These hills are generally known as the "Wittenham Clumps," and locally, by a more homely designation. The view from the top is very fine. One of the knolls is a strong hill-fortress, with a triple line of entrenchments, the ramparts and deep ditches being very distinct. In the plain beneath is another remarkable earthwork. The Thames, at a sharp bend, has been utilised to give protection to three sides of a camp, and a strong double rampart has been drawn across the cord of the bow. A trench to be filled with water has also been made. In 1870 a farmer kept his labourers employed during a hard winter in digging down the W. side of the rampart and flinging it into the fosse. Thus much was lost, but enough remains to show the important nature of the work.

5 m. N.W. of Wallingford is **Earl's** or **Long Wittenham**, a pretty village with an interesting *Church* (99 × 62 ft.). The chancel, Dec., was rebuilt 1850, but retains its *low-side windows* N. and S., also three piscinæ. The chancel arch is late Norm. restored. The N. and S. aisles are good Dec., with Dec. arcade on the N. and E.E. on the S. The clerestory is late Perp. At the end of the N. aisle is a small aumbry and a delicate piscina on an en-

gaged pedestal. There is a large S. transeptal chapel, Dec., in which is a unique *piscina*. It is early Dec., and serves at once as piscina and founder's monument. In the head are two angels, and in front of the drain lies a very small effigy (2 ft.) of a mailed and cross-legged knight, whose name is not known. Here also is a curious leaden font, *c.* 1190. "Bp. Stapleden gave to Exeter College, 1322, the rectory of Long Wittenham, which he had obtained from Philip, prior of Longueville Giffard, in the diocese of Rouen," and till 1885 the living was held by Fellows of Exeter. In the village is a restored cross, and various British, Roman, and Saxon "finds" have been made in the neighbourhood.

About 6 m. N.W. of Wallingford is **Appleford**, with a rebuilt *Church*, preserving a Trans. Norm. font.

About 7½ m. N.W. of Wallingford (2½ S.E. of Abingdon) is **Sutton Courtney**, a picturesque and interesting village, with fine trees and many old houses. The manor was an early possession of Abingdon Abbey, but was afterwards exchanged with King Cynulf for the Isle of Andersey (see *Abingdon*). Henry II. gave the manor to Reginald Courteney, ancestor of the Earls of Devon, but it was twice forfeited by them: first by Thomas Courteney, who fought against Edward IV. at Towton; and afterwards, when it had been restored to the family, by the attainder of Henry, Marquis of Exeter, 1539.

The *Church* (111 × 46 ft.) is mainly Dec. and Perp.: the tower ranges from Norm. to E.E., and there is a transition arch in the S. arcade. The church contains an E.E. font, two Perp. altar-tombs, some scanty remains of old woodwork and old glass, and some curious mural inscriptions. Over the S. porch is a parvise, containing some books belonging to the church; among others a copy of Stackhouse's "History of the Bible" (see *Beenham*). In the churchyard is a Perp. tomb.

S. and S.W. of the church are the "Abbey" and the "Manor House," the former of which was once a hospital to Abingdon Abbey, and the latter a country seat of the abbots. Both houses are picturesque, with very considerable remains of old work, but are not shown. N.W. of the church is the "Manor Farm," a remarkable building completely overgrown with ivy, and preserving a Norm. door on the S.

About 6 m. W. of Wallingford is **Didcot**, an important *stat.* on the G.W.R. at the junction of the Oxford - Newbury and Reading-Swindon lines. The railway employés' cottages are mainly scattered about the station and S. of the main road; this is Didcot New Town, and is in the parish of E. Hagbourne. The old village, among the trees W. of the station, is surprisingly peaceful. The *Church* (62½ × 42 ft.) is interesting, but restored: it is mainly Dec. The windows S. of chancel, the N. aisle, and the chancel-arch are modern. The font and arcade are E.E., and there is some old glass remaining in the W. window. Against the S. wall is a stone effigy, conjectured to be the first of the mitred abbots of Abingdon, *c.* 1268. In the churchyard is a restored cross, and a yew 20 ft. in girth.

4 m. W. of Wallingford is **North Moreton**, with a large (100 × 42 ft.) and most interesting *Church*. The chancel, suffering from modern over-ornamentation, is severe Dec. On its S. side is an unglazed window, and two E.E. arches with very deep undercutting in the mouldings, opening into a

rich chantry chapel (Dec. throughout) of the Stapletons. A deed of Edward III. still exists authorising Sir Miles Stapleton to alienate 25 acres of land for the maintenance of a priest to this chantry. Here notice the fine E. window of five lights, full of Dec. glass (the subjects of which are described in a sheet hung on the wall); the lofty side-windows of three lights each; and the rich and curious piscina with angle-pillar engraved in Rickman. Outside notice the good parapet, buttresses, and dripstones. The nave has Dec. windows with considerable remains of 14th-cent. glass, an E.E. font, and a Perp. W. tower, with good open parapet.

In the church register is a curious notice of the death of John and Richard Gregorie, May 1598. "These two men were killed by ould Gunter. Gunter's sonnes and the Gregories fell together by y^e^ years at footeball. Ould Gunter drewe his dagger and broke booth there heades, and they died booth within a fortnight after."

Adjoining the churchyard on the W. is the Vicarage (once a farmhouse), with a half-timber and herringbone brick barn, a good Perp. square-headed garden door, and a 15th-cent. brick chimney. Here are preserved brass plates to Thomas Mayne (1479) and James Leaver (1629).

1 m. S. of North Moreton is **South Moreton**, lying along the willow-lined Hacker's Brook (*see* Hagbourne), which once supplied the moats of Wallingford Castle. The *Church* (61 × 35 ft.) has suffered greatly from restoration. The parallel and almost equal aisles are divided by a Transition arcade of four arches: a modern arch has also been cut through the masonry. The S.E. buttress, bearing a plain shield in a cinquefoiled recess (figured in Rickman), is old, as is also a good and early E.E. double piscina in the S. aisle. Most of the N. wall is new, but there is a good Dec. N. door, and traces of a Norm. door with plain imposts on the W. The font of this church is in a garden at Wallingford. The churchyard has a large but shattered yew, and adjoining the churchyard on the W. is a mound and trench, probably the remains of a small fortification.

2½ m. On the rt. is ✠ **Cholsey**, a large village, with a junction *station* for Wallingford. The township is very old, and is called in Domesday "Celsea." Here was once a monastery, founded 986 by Ethelred in expiation of the murder (by Queen Elfrida, at Corfe Castle) of his brother Edward the Martyr. The monastery was probably burnt by the Danes in 1006, and in a charter granted by Henry I. to Reading Abbey it is mentioned as having been "long since destroyed." The same king gave the manor here to the abbots of Reading, and they had a house here (called the "Abbot of Reading's Place"), which was also used as a hospital. All traces of buildings have disappeared, but the moat is still very distinct (W. of church), and it was only at the beginning of the century that the huge stone barn (51 ft. high, 54 ft. wide, and 303 ft. long) was pulled down. The straight road leading from the river to the moated enclosure is still called "Papists' Way."

The large cruciform *Church* (137 × 67 ft.), with central tower, is interesting but much restored, no less than four windows having been recently knocked through the massive Norman walls into the nave. The church is mainly Norman and E.E., the upper story of the tower Dec. There are *brasses* (nave) to John Barfoot de Chelseye, 1361; (S. transept) John Gate, 1394;

and (chancel) a good one to John Mere, 1471, the two latter having once been vicars of the church. In the churchyard is a fine yew.

The large building on the left of the Wallingford and Reading road is the County Lunatic Asylum.

3½ m. ✠ **Moulsford**, a pretty village with a restored Dec. *Church*, of little interest. It contains a mural tablet to W. Gifford, 1694, "first president of the African fort of St. George." The scenery round Moulsford is fine, and the neighbourhood is well known to artists, anglers, and boating-men.

5½ m. ✠ **Streatley** (*see* Rte. 7).

Just before reaching Streatley a road on the rt. leads to Blewbury and Wantage. At the *Bull Inn* are roads turning rt. to Aldworth (Rte. 7) and l. to Goring, on the Oxfordshire bank. The road to Pangbourne is very picturesque, passing along the wooded spurs of the downs, and commanding fine *views* of the river.

7 m. **Basildon.** The *Church* lies ½ m. to the left of the road, and close to the river. It has been much modernised, but retains an E.E. S. doorway, a Dec. chancel arch, some Dec. windows, and a fine recessed Dec. tomb (exterior S. wall of chancel) with a modern inscription. There is a small *brass* to John and Lucy Clerk, 1497. The church has one of the 18th-cent. brick W. towers common to the neighbourhood. A Roman pavement was discovered here in making the railway.

On the rt. of the road is *Basildon Park* (400 acres), with *Basildon House*, once the seat of the Fanes (Viscount Fane of Ireland). On the death of the last Viscount it was purchased by Sir Francis Sykes, who in 1767 built the present house of Portland stone with a classic façade. In 1838 it was acquired by James Morrison, whose son, Charles Morrison, Esq., is the present owner. It is remarkable for the works of art which it contains, of which the following are worth notice:—

Hall.—A quadrangular Roman altar from the Strawberry Hill collection, ornamented with a bas-relief of the death of Opheltes; a landscape by *Turner*, in the style of Claude, "a *chef-d'œuvre* of this great master."

Octagon. — *Wm. Hilton*, scene from Milton's *Comus*; *Sir Chas. Eastlake*, Flight of Francesco Carrara, Duke of Padua, and his Duchess, from Giov. Galeazzo Visconti; *Turner*, a landscape; *Collins*, the Fisherman's Farewell; *Webster*, the Sick Girl; *Hogarth*, the Punch Club, a well-known picture, showing the various effects of the beverage; *Pickersgill*, portrait of Alex. von Humboldt; *Wilkie*, a young girl confessing (Rome, 1827); *Stanfield*, Italian sea-coast; *Hilton*, Penelope recognising Ulysses.

Library.—*N. Poussin*, Bacchanalian scene, "one of the finest specimens of the master"; *Rembrandt*, a portrait, supposed to be his daughter; *Rubens*, the Virgin and Child, with St. Joseph, "in a powerful transparent golden tone"; *Parmegiano*, Cupid, formerly in the Pal. Barberini at Rome; a fine bronze statue of a Mænad.

Pink Drawing-room.—*Leonardo da Vinci*, half-length female figure; over mantelpiece, a bas-relief in ivory by *François du Quesnoy*.

Oak Room. — *Teniers*, an old woman of Antwerp with a doctor; interior of a stable; *Guercino*, St. Sebastian pierced with arrows; *Vandyke*, portrait of Charles I.; portraits of two ladies seated, Dorothy Percy and Lucy Percy, countesses of Leicester and Carlisle (Waller's heroines), from Straw-

berry Hill; *Sir Joshua Reynolds*, his own portrait; *Poussin*, two landscapes; *Watteau*, a group of ladies and gentlemen listening to the guitar of Pierrot; *Hobbema*, a cottage and trees—"its effect is equally powerful and transparent"; *Dujardin*, the Farrier's Shop; *Gyssels*, dead game; *Backhuysen*, a sea-piece; *A. von Ostade*, room in a tavern after dinner; *Van de Velde*, *Paul Potter*, and *Both*, landscapes.

Schoolroom.—Harlow, the Trial of Catherine of Aragon; *Greuze*, study for a picture in the Louvre.

At Basildon Jethro Tull was born 1675 and died 1740. He is perhaps the most celebrated of English agriculturists, the author of treatises on husbandry still valuable, and the inventor of the drilling and hoeing implements still in use (see *Shalbourne*).

In a valley a mile from Basildon, amidst groves of beech trees, lies *Nobes' Tomb*. Nobes was a Quaker —and a character. "There goes Nobes on his white horse" is still a country-side exclamation. The tomb is formed of bonded blocks of Corsham Down stone, and on the architrave is incised, "Nobes' Tomb, 1699." Inside rest Nobes and his wife. It is said that, after the burial of his wife, the door was locked and the key thrown in through an aperture. A man stripped the lead off and broke the door in with a plough-coulter, *c.* 1790: he was transported for the act. On the cover of Basildon register is "Thos. Nobes died y^e^ 13 day of April, 1699, and was not buried. Joane Nobes died accidentally y^e^ 16 day of August, 1704, and not buried."

9 m. ✠ **Pangbourne** (*stat.*), a favourite "up-river" village, more picturesque some few years ago than now. It derives its name from the Pang, a little stream which, rising near Compton, here joins the Thames. The *Church* has been entirely rebuilt, with the exception of the red-brick W. tower. It contains a monument to Sir J. Davis (1625) and his two wives. Davis was a famous sea captain in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; he was involved in the fall of his patron Essex, and sentenced to death, but was afterwards reprieved. He was made a Knight-Banneret at the taking of Cales in Spain, and lived at Bere Court.

S.W. of Pangbourne is *Bere Court*, described by Leland as the "fair manor-place of brick" of the abbots of Reading, the last of whom, Hugh Faringdon, constantly resided here. His portrait in stained glass adorned the E. window of the chapel, habited in his robes, and kneeling before a crucifix, with a scroll proceeding out of his mouth, inscribed "In te Domine speravi" (see *Reading*). The house is now completely modernised.

A long and picturesque wooden bridge (built 1853) leads from Pangbourne to Whitchurch on the Oxfordshire bank.

11 m. **Purley**, a hamlet lying between the railway and the river. Hidden away among the fine trees of *Purley Park*, and within a stone's throw of the river, is the *Church*, almost entirely rebuilt 1870. On the tower is a shield with the arms of Bolingbroke, and inside the church is an arcaded Norm. font and a misplaced Norm. chancel-arch. There is a brass plate to W. Noble, 1644.

Half way between Pangbourne and Purley, rt., is *Purley Hall*, the residence of Warren Hastings while his trial was pending.

12 m. *Tilehurst Station* (for *Tilehurst*, *see* Rte. 5).

14½ m. READING (Rte. 2).

ROUTE 7.

NEWBURY TO STREATLEY

(By Aldworth.)

About 12 m.

Newbury, Shaw House, Donnington Castle, Hermitage, Hampstead Norris, Compton Parva, Aldworth, Lowbury, Streatley.

The road ascends gently to Hampstead Norris, and then becomes very hilly; the surface is first sandy, then bad and flinty, with a precipitous descent into Streatley.

✠ **NEWBURY** (with Speenhamland), a bright and flourishing market-town, lies in the valley of the Kennet (here about 2 m. wide), surrounded with broad and fertile water-meadows, stretches of corn land, firm pasture on the terraces of river-gravel, and woods clothing the hills which enclose the valley on either side. The peat deposits are of interest, and have yielded a remarkable series of mammalian bones, flint implements, and timber of lake dwellings. Newbury perhaps derives its name from being the new-town, which sprang up in the valley in contradistinction to the older Roman Station of *Spinæ* (now Speen), on the higher ground; though Roman remains have been found also on the site of the present town. Of the Castle, commemorated by the three domed towers of the Borough arms, no remains exist. It stood on the S. bank of the Kennet near the present wharf, and seems to have been built by the Earls of Perche c. 1140. It was held for the Empress, was besieged by Stephen in 1152, taken after three weeks, and was demolished either at that time or later with the Adulterine Castles. Close to the Castle was a Preceptory of the Hospitallers (within the manor of Greenham), given to the order by Matilda Countess of Clare, and confirmed by John in 1199. King John lived much at his hunting-lodge of Kingsclere, and often visited Newbury. According to a legendary ballad he was concealed in the house of an old spinning woman at Newbury when he fled from his insurgent barons; and built the almshouses now called "King John's Court" or St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in token of his gratitude. A charter exists by which the king gives (1215) to the Master and Brethren of the Hospital the profits of a fair to be held on Bartholomew's Day. The fair survives, and the profits are still divided among the inmates of King John's Court.

The town was one of the most flourishing seats of the cloth trade, which here produced its hero towards the end of the 15th cent., in the rich and patriotic clothier John Winchcombe, known as "Jack of Newbury." His name seems to have been John Smalwoode, and he took Winchcombe (the name of his birthplace, also a great cloth centre), as his patronymic after he became a person of distinction. He was apprenticed to a clothier in Newbury, was diligent in business, and married his master's widow, although she was both young and rich, and many—

> "Flocked to see her, young and old,
> In part for love, in part for gold."

They were married in the old Chapel of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; which still stands, though not now used for religious service. At

length he gathered great wealth, and kept 100 looms at work. When, in Henry VIII.'s absence, the Scotch invaded England, he was ordered to send out four men armed with pikes and two horsemen for the king's service, and answered the call by marching N. at the head of 50 tall men well mounted, and 50 footmen with bow and pike, "as well armed and better clothed than any." Whether he reached Flodden is doubtful, though the ballad of the "Newberrie Archers," gives the particulars of the exploits of his men—

"None soe loude wyth fame dyd rynge
As the Laddes of Newberrie."

On Henry's return from France, Winchcombe had the honour of entertaining him at Newbury, which he did in splendid fashion, and declined the honour of knighthood. But Winchcombe's crowning work was his carrying to a successful issue the clothiers' petition, when, "by reason of the wars, many merchant strangers were prohibited from coming to England, and also our merchants, in like sort, were forbidden to have dealings with France and the Low Countries," so that the cloth trade had fallen very low. Wolsey, to whom the deputation was first referred, put the matter off from time to time, being of opinion that "Jack of Newbury, if well examined, would be found to be infected with Luther's spirit." Winchcombe, in his turn, exasperated the Cardinal by saying, "If my Lord Chancellor's father had been no hastier in killing calves than he in despatching of poor men's suits, I think he would never have worn a mitre." But the King took the matter up, and the clothiers got their order, and a commercial treaty was made so "that merchants should freely traffic one with another, and the proclamation thereof should be made as well on the other side of the sea as the land." Winchcombe died 1519, and was buried in the S. aisle of Newbury Church. Part of his old brick-and-timber house stands in Northbrook Street, adjoining the Jack of Newbury Inn, with a 15th-cent. gable, oriel window, and carved bargeboard. The *Old Cloth Hall*, a singularly picturesque but shamefully neglected building, still remains. Its style is Jacobean, and it was built by the "Guild of Clothworkers of Newbury," incorporated 1601, but it has long been disused for Guild purposes. The *Town Hall* is a red-brick building, 1740, with an undercroft which serves for a Butter and Poultry Market. Here are preserved a portrait of John Winchcombe, son of Jack; and the public stocks, last used in 1872 for an incorrigible drunkard, Mark Tuck.

The *Church* of St. Nicholas is a large and imposing "town church." Perp. with lofty tower-arch and graceful arcades. It was built 1509–1533, probably through the munificence of John Smalwoode (*alias* Winchcombe), as the initials J. S. appear on the roof. The Church is filled with stained glass (of which much has been given by the St. Nicholas Stained Glass Window Society), and the general effect is good. The good pulpit was given by Mrs. Margaret Cross, 1607. In the vestry is the only known portrait of Dr. Twiss (1644), a well-known puritan rector, and Prolocutor of the Westminster Assembly of Divines. His successor in the living, Benj. Woodridge, was the first graduate of Harvard University, Massachusetts. There is a curious *brass*, 1519, to John Winchcombe, the famous clothier, and brass plates to Hugh Shepley 1596, Francis Trenchard 1635, and George Widley 1641.

In the choir of this Church was arraigned (1556) before the Chan-

cellor of Salisbury, for heresy, Jocelyn (or Julius) Palmer, Master of Reading Grammar School, with John Gwin and Thos. Askew. Palmer was a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and a Romanist, but he was so struck by the constancy exhibited by the bishops there (at whose burning he was present), that he became a Protestant, and suffered death, with the two others, at a place called the Sandpits at Newbury, July 16, 1556. "When they were come to the place where they should suffer, they all three fell to the ground, and Palmer with an audible voice pronounced the 31st Psalm, but the other two made their prayers secretly to God . . . and so forthwith they put off their raiment, and went to the stake and kissed it. And when they were bound to the post Palmer said, 'Good people, pray for us, that we may persevere to the end; and for Christ's sake beware of Popish teachers, for they deceive you.' As he spake this, a servant of one of the bailiffs threw a faggot at his face. that the blood gushed out in divers places. For the which fact the sheriff reviled him, calling him cruel tormentor, and with his walking staff brake his head, that the blood likewise ran about his ears. When the fire was kindled and began to take hold upon their bodies, they lift up their hands towards heaven, and quietly and cheerily, as though they had felt no smart, they cried, 'Lord Jesu strengthen us, Lord Jesu assist us, Lord Jesu receive our souls.' And so they continued, without any struggling, holding up their hands, and knocking their hearts, and calling upon Jesu, until they had ended their mortal lives."—*Foxe.*

The Battles of Newbury.

During the Civil War the townsmen of Newbury were vehemently Parliamentarian, and complaints of their "seditious demeanour," even after the Restoration, occur in the State Papers preserved in the Public Record Office. The immediate neighbourhood of the town was the scene of two indecisive battles, commonly known as the first and the second battle of Newbury.

The *First Battle* occurred in 1643 (Sept. 20), when the town was held by the Royalists. On Sept. 16, Essex, who commanded the Parliamentarian army that had relieved Gloucester, attempted to reach Newbury by a forced march, intending to proceed thence to London. Rupert, who had grossly mismanaged matters at Gloucester, pushed across country with 3000 cavalry to cut him off, while the King with the infantry marched on Newbury. Rupert overtook Essex on Aldbourne Chase, and charged furiously as the Parliament forces were moving with wide intervals between their divisions. "The dragoons on both sides gave fire in full bodies on one another on the side of the hill, so that the woods above and the valleys below did echo with the thunder of the charge." During this conflict many of the queen's life-guard were cut to pieces, and the Marquis de Vieuville was taken mortally wounded, making known his rank in his last words, "Vous voyez un grand Marquis mourant."

Essex encamped in the low-lying fields known as Crookham Heath, near Enborne, where his men "lay all night impatient of the sloth of darkness, and wishing for morning's light to raise their valour." He drew up his forces in battle array on "Biggs' Hill," which name still remains applied to a cottage, on the borders of what till lately was Enborne Common. Essex's total numbers were probably 8000 as against the 10,000 of the King. The King's lines, which commanded the London road, and which were

defended in the rear by the river Lambourn and the guns of Donnington. must have extended from Newbury along "the hill" to Newbury Wash, where his main force was drawn up. Thither Essex, "finding his soldiers full of mettle," advanced by a narrow lane up Speen Hill, in which but six men could march abreast, seizing upon the table-land at the top, which he continued to occupy throughout the day. The King was unwilling to risk an engagement, but was forcibly led into it by the rashness of his officers, whose eagerness was such that, leaving their doublets behind, they led out their men to battle in their shirts. The artillery were at first unavailable, but the royal cavalry, headed by the Earl of Carnarvon, charged with wonderful boldness, so that they routed the horse of the enemy in most places, though the leader himself fell in the midst of the triumph. The Parliamentarian foot, however, behaved well, and the London trained bands (at whom the Cavaliers scoffed), stood firm, and kept their ground steadily at Newbury Marsh; though Prince Rupert charged them in person with the cry "Queen Mary in the field!" Essex. in a white hat, which he refused to change, was among them; and eventually, rallying his men, with undaunted courage led them up the hill, driving the infantry of the King "from hedge to hedge," and gained possession of "the hill, the hedges, and the river" Kennet.

Meantime the Royalists, observing that Essex's men for distinction's sake wore branches of fern and broom in their hats, adopted the same badge, and, shouting "Friends!" fell stealthily upon the parliamentarian rear, but after a sharp conflict were put to flight. After 6 hours' fight, "the cannon did still dispute with one another, as if the battle was but new begun"; and when at length night drew on, it left neither side to claim a victory. It was a desperate hand-to-hand struggle to the last; only at 11 o'clock at night did the fighting cease, and 6000 men were left dead on the field. On the following morning Essex carried out his design of retiring to Reading, Prince Rupert suffering him to proceed, with his whole army, till they were engulfed in the narrow lane near Theale, now called "Dead Man's Lane," when he fell upon their rear with fearful execution.

Among the 60 cartloads of slain carried into the town, were the Earl of Carnarvon, who in the morning had been seen measuring a gateway with his sword, amid a crowd of laughing Cavaliers, to see how Essex's horns could pass through when they should lead him in as prisoner, and whose dead body came into Newbury the same evening, stretched across a horse "like that of a calf"; the Earl of Sunderland, only 23 years old; and the blameless Lord Falkland, who had gone out to battle, saying, "I am weary of the times, and foresee much misery to my country, but I believe I shall be out of it ere night." The house where he lodged still stands in Cheap Street, and the room in which Falkland received the sacrament at the hands of Dr. Twiss, rector of Newbury, on the morning of the battle, is still shown. Clarendon describes him in a beautiful memoir, and says that, "If there were no other brand upon this odious and accursed war than that single loss, it must be most infamous, and execrable to all posterity." He is commemorated by Pope in the line—

"See Falkland dies, the virtuous and the just;"

and by Southey, who wrote an inscription for a column at Newbury, commencing—

"On this field
Did Falkland fall, the blameless and the brave."

A solitary poplar long marked the spot where he fell, but it was cut down several years ago. A granite monument has been erected to his memory, by those "to whom the Majesty of the Crown and the Liberties of their country are dear." Chain-shot, cannon-balls, and other relics, are constantly found on the battle-field; and three tumuli still exist where the slain were interred, two on the Wash and one on Enborne Common. These grave-mounds, where Cavalier and Roundhead sleep in peace, are decorated with flowers by the Newbury children on the anniversary of the battle.

The *Second Battle* of Newbury took place on Sunday, Oct. 27, 1644. After the defeat of Essex in Cornwall the King had marched eastward, meaning to relieve Donnington Castle, held for the Crown by Sir John Boys, and then strictly invested, and afterwards to march to Oxford into winter quarters. This the Parliament attempted to prevent, and the forces of Manchester, Waller, and Essex, in all about 11,000 foot and 8,000 horse, effected a junction at Basingstoke, and marched on Newbury. Charles had relieved Donnington, but his forces were weakened by the despatch of the Earl of Northampton to relieve Banbury, and did not exceed 10,000 all told, when he was forced to fight. The Royalists occupied a strong position between the Kennet and the Lambourn. Shaw village and Shaw House were occupied by Royal troops on the N.E., and on the W. Prince Maurice, with his brigade of Cornish Horse, held the village of Speen. The Parliament plan was that Waller, Cromwell, and Skippon with the main force should surprise Speen by a flank march; and that Manchester should remain behind, and attack the King's quarters at Shaw, as soon as the sound of firing at Speen was heard. Fighting began with daylight on the Sunday morning, and as a result of a long day's struggle the Parliament were successful at Speen, but the attack on Shaw House (or "Dolman's," as it was then called) failed. The second column of Parliament troops, numbering 3000 foot and 1200 horse, had resolutely attacked the old House early in the day, "singing of psalms as they went," but were repulsed by Sir J. Brown and Lieut-Col. Page, who "pursued them from the house with notable execution"; and by Col. Lisle, unarmed and clad in "a good Holland shirt," who charged them three times, shouting "For the crown!" "For Prince Charles!" "For the Duke of York!" while a storm of musket-bullets hailed upon them from every window and parapet.

Again and again during the day did Manchester's men try to carry the position, but it was all to no purpose: though the grounds, and especially the garden on the E. side of the House, where the deadliest conflict took place, were left thickly strewn with dead Roundheads. The battle was at length abandoned, as indecisive. At nightfall the King retired with his regiment of guards into the fields under Donnington Castle, where a council of war decided to retreat to Oxford. Under Prince Maurice this was accomplished without hindrance, but Charles with his immediate attendants and a squadron of Life-guards made his way to Bath and there joined Prince Rupert. The Parliament remained in possession of Newbury, which they fortified and held till the end of the war.

Speenhamland is a suburb of Newbury, connecting it with the old Bath road, which passes N. of

the town. It was formerly renowned for its great coaching-inns, of which the most noted was the *George and Pelican*. Here three "Fours" were changed in less than an hour, and on a pane in the coffee-room Quin wrote:—

"The famous inn at Speenhamland,
That stands below the hill,
May well be called the Pelican,
From its enormous bill."

Another famous hostelry was the *Bear*, to which the dead bodies of Lords Falkland, Carnarvon, and Sunderland were brought back after the first battle of Newbury; and in the same house also sat the Parliamentarian Commissioners. In later times the *Bear* was renowned for its cockpit, but is now converted into a brewery and private houses.

Newbury bids fair to become of some importance as a railway centre. It is crossed by lines running N. and S., and E. and W., besides being the terminus of the Lambourn Valley Railway.

1 m. N.E. from Newbury is **Shaw House**, by far the most stately Elizabethan mansion in the county. It was built of warm red brick with stone dressings; and, in spite of Civil War injuries, is still very interesting and picturesque. In the old-fashioned gardens can be traced the defensible earthworks that foiled the Parliament's attacks, repeated again and again all the day of the second battle of Newbury.

The house was built in 1581 by Thomas Dolman (at "the enormous cost of 10,000 pounds"), a member of an old Yorkshire family who had settled in Newbury as a clothier, and having made a fortune, retired here to live as a country gentleman. The proceeding was distastful to the townsmen, and they expressed their feelings in the lines:—

"Lord have mercy upon us, miserable sinners;
Thomas Dolman has built a new house,
And has turned away all his spinners."

To which he retorted with the haughty distich:—

"Edentulus vescentium dentibus invidet
Et oculos caprearum talpa contemnit,"
(The toothless man envieth the teeth of them that eat,
And the mole despiseth the eyes of the roes)

which may still be read carved over the portico; and over the main entrance is:—

Φθονερὸς μηδεὶς εἰσίτω.
(Let no envious person enter.)

It is said he put up these verses as spells to avert the evil eye.

In the house are many interesting Civil War relics, including armour and cannon-balls in the hall, military portraits, and a snuff-box with a medallion bust of Charles I., to whom it belonged. In the oak wainscot of a bay window in the drawing-room a bullet-hole is shown, with the inscription:—

Tantis nequidquam ereptus periclis
Rex carolus Primus
Hanc juxta fenestram
Instante obsidione
Scloppopetræ ictu tantum non
Trajectus fuit,
Die Octob: xxvii. MDCXLIV.

Tradition says that a Parliamentary soldier fired at the King as he was dressing. During the attacks on the house, in the second battle of Newbury (*v.* Newbury), the greatest slaughter took place in the garden on the E. of the house, and there is a story of the King and Mr. Dolman fighting side by side. After the battle the Dolmans took—

"King and law,
Shouts Dolman of Shaw"

for their motto. "King and Law" was said to have been the watchword for the night before the battle. Mr. Dolman was knighted at the Restoration; and on the night of Thursday, August 27, 1663, Charles II., with his Queen and the Duke of York "lodged at Sir Thomas Dolman's, where they were entertained with magnificence, prudence,

modesty and order—to admiration. A good part of the evening His Majᵛ. spent in viewing the ground where one of the battles was fought, calling to mind more particulars, occurring then to his memory (having been present in that fight) than can be imagined." Queen Anne slept here Oct. 28, 1703, on a state bedstead still preserved in the house, with tapestry hangings worked with scenes from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

1 m. N. of Newbury, crowning a hill to the l. of the Oxford road, and shrouded by ancient trees, are the picturesque remains of **Donnington Castle**, now limited to an ivy-mantled gateway (a fine specimen of early Perp.), with a tall tower on either side and a piece of wall adjoining. Much of the material has been used in building a modern mansion, *Castle House*, at the foot of the hill.

Richard de Adderbury got a licence to crenellate, 1385, and an ancestor of his had bought the estate from Edward II. for 100*s*. Donnington has always been associated with the poet Chaucer, and local tradition, backed by the writings of Camden, Sylvester, Godwin, and others, asserts that he lived in the castle, which Grose declares to have been presented to him by John of Gaunt. Speight speaks of the "elde oak at Donnington, called Chaucer's oke"; and Evelyn declares that "among the trees in Donnington Park were three which were remarkable from the ingenious planter and dedicator (if tradition hold), the famous English bard Geoffrey Chaucer: of which one was called the king's, another the queen's, and a third Chaucer's oak"; while Ashmole further asserts that Chaucer "composed many of his celebrated pieces under an oak in Donnington Park." It is, however, unfortunately the fact, that Donnington did not come into the Chaucer family till 1418, 18 years after the poet's death (John of Gaunt never having been the possessor of this place at all, but of Donnington in Leicestershire), when it passed from the Adderburys to the poet's granddaughter Alice, whose magnificent tomb is at Ewelme, and who married —1st, Sir John Phelipp; 2nd, Thos., Earl of Salisbury; and 3rd, William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, who resided for a little time with her at Donnington. Here she may have been visited by her father, Thomas Chaucer, the poet's only son, and by him the trees may possibly have been planted.

By attainder of Edmund, Duke of Suffolk, 1503, the castle passed to the Crown. Elizabeth granted it (1600) to the great admiral, the Earl of Nottingham, for his glorious victory over the Armada, to be held by tenure of presenting one red rose to the Queen every year on the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. The earl's eldest son mortgaged it to Peter Vanlore (*vide* Tilehurst), and *c.* 1635 it came to the Parker family by purchase. As commanding the Bath road, it was garrisoned by the Royalists in the Civil War, and was a centre of much fighting. It was first attacked by General Middleton in Aug. 1644, when its governor, the gallant Colonel Boys, in answer to a summons to surrender, first declared his resolution of maintaining his trust, and then repulsed his assailants, after an assault of six hours, with a loss of 100 men. On Sept. 19 Col. Horton succeeded in beating down three of the towers; and, relying on this success, declared that, unless the castle was surrendered, he would spare no life within it: to which Boys replied that he "would keep the place, and would neither give nor take quarter"; and that night, again making a sally, repulsed his

besiegers with loss. Threats that his enemies would not leave one stone upon another were only met by the response that he was not bound to repair the castle, but, by God's help, he would keep the ground; and he did so until in April 1646 he received the King's order to surrender. The surrender was made to General Dalbier in a field E. of the Castle, still called *Dalbier's Meadow*. The building had been much "indamaged by granadoes," and was then "slighted." Round the Castle are still to be seen traces of the outworks thrown up during the siege, the strength of which explains its successful defence.

Half-way up the Castle Hill is *Donnington Priory*, built on the site of a small priory of Trinitarians. The Trinitarians (because their churches were all dedicated to the Trinity), or Maturins (because their first house was near S. Mathurine's chapel in Paris), or Inghamites (because their first house in England was at Ingham, in Norfolk), had twelve houses in England, lived by an easy rule, and were mostly laymen. Donnington was founded by Richard de Adderbury, *c.* 1360, suppressed 1538, and valued in the *valor* at £19 3*s.* 10*d.* revenue. The site of the church is not known. There was also here a Maison Dieu or Hospital, founded 1393 by Richard de Adderbury, and refounded as Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, by the Earl of Nottingham; the foundation now consists of a Master and twelve poor brethren.

At the foot of the hill flows the Lambourn, a well-known trout stream, thus commemorated by the local poet, Sylvester:

"Little Lamb's Bourne . . .
All summer long (while all thy sisters shrink),
Men of thy tears a million daily drink
Beside thy waste, which then in haste doth run
To wash the feet of Chaucer's Donnington:
But (while the rest are full unto the top)
All winter long thou never show'st a drop,
Nor send'st a doit of needless subsidy
To cram the Kennet's wantless treasury
Before her stores be spent and springs be stayed:
Then, then alone, thou lend'st a liberal aid."

(For an explanation of the phenomenon here alluded to *see* Route 8.)

4 m. **Hermitage** (*stat.*) has a *Church* built 1835. On the Bucklebury road, ½ m. beyond the Church, near the top of the hill, a path turns off l. through the wood. About 300 yds. along this path is *Wild Duck Pond*, a boggy hole, black in centre, and fringed with verdure. When the new gardens at Lockinge House were being made, it was thought (the result showed unjustifiably) this mud would be a good fertiliser, and a lot of it was carried away. During the digging, more than two waggon-loads of rough-hewn oak trunks (about 18 ft. long) were found. In these baulks science, or fancy, discovered the platform of a pile- or lake-dwelling. *Ex pede Herculem*: one black baulk lies at the edge of the bog; the visitor can judge for himself. The peaty soil hard by was set alight by a "forest-fire" in 1896, and smouldered for some time.

If the Bucklebury road is regained and the first turn on the r. (200 yds. farther on) taken, the British earthwork of *Grimsbury Castle* will be reached. A modern octangular brick cottage marks the centre of the entrenchment. The earthworks, overgrown with oak, larch, and bracken, are difficult to trace; but are circular, and consist of a single rampart and trench. S.E. of the cottage is a fine spring that never runs dry. *Fence* or *Fetz* wood, on the outskirts of which the "Castle" stands covers 700 acres, and is a

noted game covert. There is one of the numerous Berkshire Roman roads in the vicinity; and at Wellhouse (½ m. W.) a Roman villa was discovered half a century ago.

From Cold Ash Common, ½ m. S. of Grimsbury, a fine view can be obtained.

7 m. **Hampstead Norris** (*stat.*), is a pretty village embowered in fine trees.

The *Church* (108 × 20½ ft.) has been much "restored," and disfigured on the N. by a modern vestry. There is a massive late Perp. W. tower with walls 4 ft. thick; on a quoin at N.E. of tower is a numeral VIII. let in in bronze metal, and in the top storey is a sanctus-bell opening. The chancel has two very widely splayed E.E. lancets at the E., and an E.E. piscina damaged by restoration. The nave roof is Jacobean, dated on a pendant 1635. There is a Perp. rood-loft window high in the S. wall; on the N. is a very curious rood stair, lighted by the smallest of Perp. windows.

This village is more properly called Hampstead Norreys. The Norreys were large landowners in the neighbourhood, *temp.* Queen Elizabeth. (See *Yattendon.*)

About 1 m. beyond Hampstead, going towards Compton, l. of road, is *Perborough Castle*, a circular hill-fort surrounded by a single rampart and fosse. A fine yew in a belt of wood renders Perborough easily distinguishable.

2½ m. N. of Hampstead Norris is

Compton Parva (*stat.*) which has a rebuilt *Church* with plain Perp. W. tower. There is a *brass* to Rich[d]. Pigott, c. 1500, and the base of a churchyard cross.

About 1780 a celebrated stag ran 30 miles from Windsor to Compton, and was taken in the hall of Roden House, a fine old mansion. George III. was so delighted with the run that he "gave the deer free liberty for life, and called him 'Compton.'"

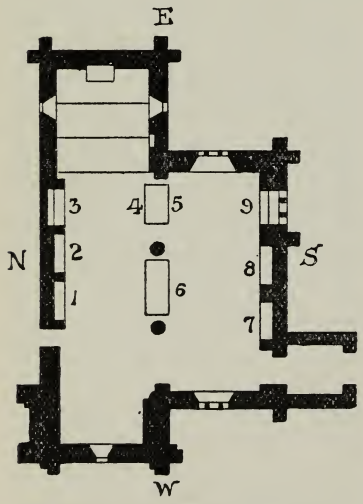
A bad road leads to *Lowbury Camp*, and the *Fair Mile* (*q.v.*), 2 miles N.E.

9½ m. ✠ **Aldworth**, a small village lying high among the downs, 3 m. W. of Streatley, has a well 372 ft. deep. The Dec. *Church* (67 × 38) has been restored. Notice the fine Dec. windows of the S. aisle. Their drip-stones and corbels are good, and the unusually wide tracery lights have a better appearance inside than out. The tower is plain E.E., markedly oblong in shape. The pulpit (1639) was brought here from St. Laurence's, Reading, *c.* 1750; and on the vestry table is a green altar-cloth dated 1705. The yew in the churchyard is one of the most famous even of the Berkshire yews, and has a girth of 27 ft.

The Church derives exceptional interest from a very curious series of altar-tombs, and effigies of the de la Beche family. The de la Beches were lords of the manor, *temp.* Ed. II. and III., and the memory of de la Beche Castle is still preserved in Beche Farm, S.E. of the Church. (See also Beaumyss Castle, Route 5). No remains of buildings exist, but a signet ring and encaustic tiles have been found on the site. There are 8 altar-tombs (with 9 effigies), 6 of them under Dec. canopies against the N. and S. walls, and 2 between the S. arcade pillars. They were famous even in Elizabeth's day, and the Virgin Queen is said to have ridden on a pillion behind the Earl of Leicester from Ewelme Palace to see them. Symonds, a Royalist captain who found time to make antiquarian notes amid his military duties, writes:—"May 2nd, 1644, Aldworth *vulgo* Alder. In y[e] E. ende of y[e] S. Yle did hang a table fairly written in Parchment of all y[e]

names of ye Family of delaBeche; but ye Earle of Leicester coming with ye Queen Elizabeth in progresse tooke it down to ſhow it her, and it was never brought againe. The common People call ye Statue under ye outside of ye Churche John Everafraid and say further that he gave his ſoule to the Divil if ever he was buried either in Churche or Churchyard; so he was buried under the Church wall, under an Arche." A similar story is told of tombs in like positions elsewhere. The bricked-up arch whence John Everafraid was removed is still to be seen on the S. wall outside. Three of the inside figures used to be locally known as John Long, John Strong, and John Neverafraid; but these names are forgotten, and they are now simply "The Giants."

The industry of a former Rector



SKETCH-PLAN OF ALDWORTH CHURCH.

has supplied the place of the genealogical list which Leicester took away, and the persons represented by the effigies are *supposed* to be:—

(1) Sir Robert de la Beche, knighted 1278.

(2) His son, John.

(3) Philip, son of (2), builder of chancel and S. aisle 1315, died 1329; his feet are supported by "a page sitting cross-legged like an Oriental."

(4) John, son of (3), joined the Barons, and with his father and 3 brothers was taken prisoner at the Battle of Boroughbridge 1321. He was released, 1327, and died in 1329. In the vestry is a small figure (found built up in the wall) of Christ before his judges, which fits the niche at the foot of this tomb. In this figure and in the *déshabillement* of the jupon of the effigy, fancy has seen a reference to Sir John's imprisonment.

(5) Isabella, his wife. A silver signet ring of hers (figured in vestry), was dug up on the site of Beche farm 1871.

(6) Nicholas, brother of (4), tutor to the Black Prince 1336, Superintendent of the Royal Children, Lord of the Welsh Marches, Seneschal of Gascony, died 1347.

(7) John, son of (4) and (5).

(8) Joan, his wife. The two angels at the head give rise to the country story that she died giving birth to twins.

(9) Philip, brother of (4) and (6)

These identifications are more or less hypothetical. The canopies (much restored) are fine Dec. and almost certainly of one date. It is probable that the figures also were all made at one time, and in this respect they should be compared with the long series of monuments erected by John, Lord Lumley, in the 16th cent., to his ancestors in Chester-le-Street Church. Some believe the Aldworth effigies are all of the 14th cent., but those who refer certain of them at least to a very much later date are not left

without argument. Most of the figures are in one block with the slabs that support them; the details of dress are unconvincing, and the general treatment clumsy.

About 2½ m. N. from Aldworth, 2 m. N. of Compton, and 4 m. W. from Streatley, is **Lowbury Hill,** 630 ft. It is crowned by the rather ill-defined earthwork of Lowbury Camp. The road to it is bad, but the view from the summit—a typical Down landscape—is very fine. On the N.E. (2½ m.) is seen King's Standing Hill, one of the numberless sites of the battle of Ashdown (*q.v.*), and the place according to local tradition where "Alfred pitched his tent." To the left of King's Standing Hill is the earthwork of Blewburton Hill, with Blewbury Village near it on the l.; and to the l. again is an eminence in Blewbury Plain called Churn Knob, where Birinus is said to have begun the conversion of Wessex (A.D. 635), by preaching before King Cynegils. At the foot of Lowbury Hill, stretching N.E. for 2000 yds., is the magnificent sward track called "**Fair Mile,**" perfectly straight and smooth, and 130 ft. in breadth. This is the West Icknield, a branch of the Ridgeway, coming down off the Downs to join the lower or Ickleton Road at King's Standing Hill. The *Fair Mile* is difficult of access, but well worth visiting. It is best approached from the Streatley and Blewbury road. In the neighbourhood of Lowbury are many tumuli and dykes, and Roman coins have been found in considerable numbers.

The road from Aldworth to Streatley (with magnificent views N.), becomes terribly steep and bad where it descends into the valley. This is the old Ickneild Street, from which Streatley derives its name, and at Streatley it crossed the river by a ford to Goring and the Chilterns. Here also crossed the Roman road running from Alchester in Oxfordshire to Silchester (Calleva).

12 m. ✠ **Streatley,** united to Goring by a wooden bridge over the Thames, but ¾ m. from Goring Stat., G.W.R., is an exceedingly pretty village, though commonplace building is robbing it of some of its charm. It lies on a platform between the river and the steep escarpment of the hills, and is a favourite haunt of artists. The Downs, studded with junipers and here and there a yew tree, rise abruptly behind Streatley. The view from Streatley Hill, commanding the windings of the Thames for many miles, is one of the best known on the river, but the climb is steep, and some will sing with the Lazy Minstrel:—

> "The air is clear, the day is fine,
> The prospect is, I know, divine,
> But most distinctly I decline
> To climb the hill at Streatley."

The river is wide and beautiful, and an island here is covered with fine trees. At the lock a melancholy accident happened in 1674, which is described in a tract, "Sad and deplorable News, from Oxfordsheir and Barksheir." Sixty persons were drowned as they returned from Goring Feast, and the pious saw a judgment in the catastrophe. Streatley *Church* has been rebuilt, but contains some mangled and misplaced *brasses*: Eliz. Prout 1440, 2 late figures, and a plate to Thos. Burinton 1603.

The road from Streatley to Pangbourne is hilly, but very picturesque. It commands beautiful views of the river.

ROUTE 8.

STREATLEY TO ASHBURY.

(By the Downs, Blewbury and Uffington.)

22½ miles.

Aston Tirrold, Aston Upthorpe, Blewbury, Upton, E. Hagbourn, Harwell, E. and W. Hendred, Ardington, Lockinge, Childrey, The Letcombes, Sparsholt, Kingston Lisle, Blowing Stone, Uffington, Baulking, Woolstone, Compton Beauchamp, Ashbury.

The Downs and Ickleton Road is followed. It is hilly; the surface is fair, but bad in parts.

The Downs are the most remarkable natural feature of Berks. They form part of that great chalk system which extends from Dorset to Flamborough Head, and they are a backbone to the county from Ashbury to Streatley, dividing the Vale of Kennet from the Vale of the White Horse or from the Valley of the Thames. They reach altitudes of about 890 ft. at White Horse Hill, 685 ft. at Skutchamore Knob, and 660 ft. at Ashbury; but at Inkpen Beacon, a detached portion of the range in the S. of the county, and at Walbury Camp, above Woodhay, the chalk reaches its highest elevation in England—about 1000 ft. The slope by which these heights are reached on the S. is very gradual, but on the N. the ridge breaks steeply down into the Vale of the White Horse, and forms a background to the valley views.

The Downs have the beautiful rounded contour peculiar to chalk hills; and are indented, especially on the N., with combes, shelving into transverse wooded valleys. In the higher districts water is scarce, and deep wells are common—that at Catmore is 240 ft., at Farnboro' 300 ft., and at Lockinge Kiln 360 ft. At the foot of the downs gush out many beautiful springs. Some of them, such as the Lambourn, the Pang, and the Winterbourn (rising near Chieveley) are "intermittent"; running low and sometimes altogether ceasing between Michaelmas and February (see Sylvester's lines on the Lambourn, Rte. 7). The Pang, which ordinarily rises near Hampstead Norris, in very wet winters ("once in six years") rises four miles farther to the N.-W. at Hodcot, near W. Ilsley. This intermittence, which used to be explained by a syphon theory, is now attributed to the water percolating the chalk, and accumulating on clay, gault, or other impervious strata below it. Thus the streams do not begin to run till the accumulated water has reached a certain height. In some exceptionally dry seasons this plane of saturation is reduced even below the level of the ordinary wells, and great dearth of water ensues.

The Downs proper are partly cultivated in the form of boundless and hedgeless corn-land, and partly covered with the primæval turf, short and compact. In either case there seem to the casual observer to be neither inhabitants nor houses, and the loneliness of the scene is often singularly impressive.

The Berkshire sheepwalks are famous, and the springy turf has for centuries (see *Lambourn*) been a matchless coursing ground. The Downs are at present a favourite training place for racehorses, and there are stables at Letcombe, Watcombe, Chilton, Ilsley, and many other places. As a training centre Lambourn is second only to Newmarket, and has within the

parish seven important stables. Groups of sleek and "stockinged" racehorses being exercised by their boys, are a feature of the villages that lie on the skirts of the Down. The "boys" vary in age from 10 to 40. They are smooth-faced, small and dapper, and all dressed in light grey cloth, with light grey caps and riding breeches. They are courteous, well-mannered and orderly, for discipline in the training stable is as strict as in a man-of-war; but they are astute, and very much on the *qui vive* if a stranger asks questions.

Along the top of the Downs runs the famous British road, or rather grass trackway, called the Icknield Way (see Rte. 9). It connected Icklingham, in Suffolk, with the West, perhaps with Bath, but probably with some point on the Devon coast, and can still be followed through nearly all its length. It enters Berkshire at Streatley (crossing the river from the Chilterns) and soon after divides into two tracks, one of which runs on the top of the Downs and the other at the foot of them, on the N. It was one of the four *Chemini majores*, and is called by old writers indifferently the Icknill, Acknill, Hackington, Hackney, or Icknield Way. To-day the upper track on the Berkshire downs is called the Ridgeway, and the lower the Ickleton Road; tradition says that "the Romans" used them for cavalry and infantry respectively. In traversing Berkshire the upper road passes a series of great hill forts, including Blewburton, Scutchamore (a barrow), Letcombe, Uffington, and Liddington, just across the Wilts border. They seem to mark a tribal frontier, according to some the division between the Berkshire Atrebates and the Oxfordshire Dobuni.

The Downs are close on the *left* throughout this route; and for the first 5 or 6 m. the road runs through fine open country, the hills being here studded with junipers. About 2½ m. from Streatley (see Rte. 7) a road branches off on the l. to *Lowbury Camp* (2½ m.) and the *Fair Mile* (*q.v.*). Farther on,

4 m. Half a mile N. are the little villages of Aston Upthorpe and Aston Tirrold, once chapelries of Blewbury, but separated from it in 1862. This is one of the "exploded" sites of the battle of Ashdown.

At **Aston Tirrold** the *Church* (87½ × 51½ ft.) is interesting, but much mangled. The chancel arch and N. aisle are modern; a very early (*c.* 1070) N.W. door has been built into N. wall of chancel by restorers, and blocked by a floriated grave cover; some excellent Perp. screen work found in a barn has been plastered into the S. porch. Notice an excellent S. priest's door E. E., a piscina, and a 2-light E. E.—Dec. S. window with bold mouldings. This was a *low-side window*, but was *raised* at restoration. Here is an Independent chapel dating from 1670.

At **Aston Upthorpe** is a small *Church* deprived of any interest whatever by restoration.

Between Aston Upthorpe and Blewbury is *Blewburton Hill*, terraced and crowned with a large British earthwork. It is conjectured that this was an outpost of the great hill-forts on the Downs behind. On the left of the road is Churn Knob, where Birinus is said (without authority) to have begun the conversion of Wessex (A.D. 635) by preaching before King Cynegils.

5 m. **Blewbury.** A rambling village at the foot of the down, with many inns, old houses, and an abundance of water-springs. It looks, and is, an ancient township, and even in the 10th century the charter by which King Edmund is reputed to have made over land

here to Ælfric, describes Blewbury as a "venerable place." It lies on what was once a very important highway between Reading, Wantage, and Faringdon, but its population (746 in 1881, 628 in 1891, 545 in 1901), is now dwindling, like that of so many other Berks villages.

The *Church* (113½ × 48 ft.) is very interesting, though it has suffered restorations in 1876 and 1882. It was originally Trans. *c.* 1150, with a centre tower and transepts. To this date belong chancel, tower-space, and S. nave arcade. Notice the massive centre tower-piers, and the stone vaulting of tower-space and chancel, plain quadripartite with bold ribs. The old tower walls remain to a certain height, and form, above the vaulting of the centre space, a sort of chamber which can be entered by a door high up in the N. transept. Rope-holes for 4 bells can be seen in the vaulting, and the groining ribs are worn by the ropes. The broad roodloft stair survives on the N., and has a finely carved Perp. door. About 12 ft. from the floor on the E. wall of the nave is a so-called "roodloft piscina," formed of a Norm. cap.; but here as at Lambourn (*q.v.*) restoration has much impaired its authenticity. Above the string-course on the S. of chancel, is a ring, which may have served for the "lenten veil" (cf. Chieveley). In the chancel are the remains of a Perp. screen; and two good Perp. prayer-desks, to which are chained Erasmus' paraphrase of the New Test., 1548, Jewell's Defence of the Apology of the Ch. of England, 1567, with his reply to Harding 1565, and a Bible, Barker, 1613. In the S.E. Dec. aisle, once a chantry, notice the fine 3-light Dec. E. window and piscina, and curious horseshoe arch to W. aisle. There is a Trans. squint from N. transept, and a Perp. squint from S. transept.

In nave the S. arcade is Trans. with two bigger arches towards W., the N. arcade Dec. There is a S. porch with very pleasing Perp. woodwork; a similar one on N. was wantonly pulled down by restorers in 1882, when the figure of S. Michael was placed over the N. door. Notice the Perp. iron-work in S. door, and the massive lock. The W. tower is Perp., and almost identical with that of E. Hendred.

Restoration has gutted the church of monuments; but some *brasses* remain, in inappropriate positions. (1) John Balam, Vicar, 1496. (2) Thos. Latton and one wife, *c.* 1500, are in chancel, his other wife is stuck on W. pier of S.E. chapel. (3) Sir John Daunce and Alice Latton his wife. He was knighted by Henry VIII. in the church of Tournay on the day of its surrender, Sept. 24, 1513. The Lattons had a manor-house at Chilton, near Ilsley (see Route 10). (4) John Latton, 1548. Inscriptions to (5) John Bouldre, 1499, (6) John Casberde, *c.* 1500, (7) a shield bendy-wavy arg. and sable for Estbury just inside S. door, (8) a curious modern brass to John Macdonald, *æt.* 13, 1841.

Methodism reached Blewbury as early as 1739. John Wesley's journal records three visits to the place. Under Wednesday, Jan. 28, 1750, he writes: "In the morning took horse with the N. wind full in our face. It was piercing cold, so that I could scarce feel whether I had any hands or feet when I came to Blewbury. After speaking severally to the members of the Society, I preached to a large congregation. In the evening I met my brother in Oxford." In the churchyard is a "Charity School" built and endowed by the gift of Wm. Malthus, merchant, 1709; and an almshouse founded by Jas. Bacon 1738.

6½ m. **Upton** (*stat.*), which was till 1862 a chapelry of Blewbury,

has a small and early Norman *Church* ($52\frac{1}{2}$ × $16\frac{1}{2}$ ft.). The windows were very small single light Norman; but restorers have inserted a triplet at E., a very early E. E. window (found in the rubble of the wall) in S. of chancel, and a distressingly inappropriate 3-light window in nave. The chancel arch has been tampered with, and the church now looks as if built yesterday. Notice the S. doorway with a very crude zigzag, and the still ruder N. doorway, both early Norman.

N.E. of Upton is **East Hagbourne,** one of the most picturesque villages in the country, and almost theatrically "old English." It is full of old half-timber cottage houses, some of brick set in zigzags, and some with tiled fronts. There are two village crosses (one very perfect), and the base of a third in a hedge. Through the village passes a stream now called Hacker's Brook (Hacca-broc), whose source, Shovel Spring, never runs dry. It afterwards passes South Moreton, and falls into the Thames at Wallingford. Hagbourne is a favourite haunt of artists, but the inn accommodation is poor.

The *Church* ($98\frac{1}{2}$ × 46 ft.) is fine and spacious. Notice in chancel E.E. piscina, squint to S. aisle, chancel arch sharp E. E. with curious Trans. corbels, good Perp. roof. In nave fine Perp. roof with carvings on shields of the wall-plates representing compass, carpenters' square, crozier, orb, double-headed eagle, etc.; and on centre bosses E. a greyhound chasing a hare, W. a deerhound pulling down a stag; Perp. pulpit, N. and S. plain Perp. wood porches, Perp. clerestory with single-light windows of solid spandrels nearest the tower. The S. aisle is Perp. with fine piscina, and font, on the capital of the pillar by which is a chrismatory niche; the S. door with its iron-work is original. The N. aisle is good Dec. with fine piscina, and part of a Perp. screen with linen-pattern panels. In the windows of this aisle are some remains of Dec. glass representing a Nativity, and the Purification (the Child holds three pigeons in a basket), with a fragmentary inscription, "Ecce Ancilla Domini." There are *brasses*: (1) Claricia Wyndsore, 1403, wife of (2) John York, 1413, with inscriptions saying they built this aisle; but the brasses were perhaps moved from S. aisle; (3) John York, 1445; (4) Christian Keate, 1627.

The W. tower is massive Perp., and has a good beacon-turret, and a rare and singularly perfect sanctus bell-cot pinnacled and finialled. The tower should by all means be climbed for the view, which shows Hagbourne as an oasis in a rather dull country. The nave has a good parapet with a niche on the N.

A serious fire occurred here in 1666, and briefs soliciting aid for the sufferers were authorised to be read in five counties.

Didcot station is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Hagbourne.

$8\frac{1}{2}$ m. **Harwell** has a fine cruciform *Church* (118 × 56 ft.). The nave has graceful Trans. arcades, and good Dec. windows. The transepts are E. E., and the chancel Dec., with good N. door and windows. Notice the 5-light E. window, Dec.; a double E. E. piscina, Dec. sedilia, bold figures at spring of chancel-arch which has no capitals, and a similar figure in the sill of a window N. of chancel. The rood-screen remains with Dec. shafts and Perp. tracery, and has a squint in the wood on the S.; there is a fine king-post roof, late Dec.; and a W. tower, E. E., with a Perp. turret.

10½ m. **East Hendred** an interesting and picturesque village bowered in trees, is full of old houses (many thatched), with remains of barge-boards; and much excellent ironwork in the fastenings of dormer and other windows.

At the corner where the roads diverge to Steventon and Wantage is a small Perp. wayside *chapel*; once attached to the Carthusian House of Jesus of Bethlehem at Sheen, but now known as Champ's Chapel, from a former tenant. It measures 25½ × 15½; the W. half is divided horizontally by a floor, but the E. half is open to the roof, and separated by a screen. Two image brackets and an aumbry remain; the E. window is of three lights, and there are two-light Perp. S.E. and N.E. windows. The latter can be seen in the bedroom of a later cottage built against the chapel on the N. On the N.W. is an extension of the priest's accommodation, with some Perp. woodwork, and a much-weathered barge-board. On the opposite side of the road stands an Elizabethan farmhouse, with brick building attached, in which are some late windows and a Perp. door.

Farther down the village is *Hendred House* (John J. Eyston, Esq.), on the front of which are seen the monogram of the Jesuits, and the *cor transfixum gladio*. Wm. Eyston obtained the property by his marriage with Isabel Stowe, c. 1450. Attached to it is the chapel, once E. E. but now modernised, of St. Amand, one of the three (the others are Hazlewood, Yorks, and Stonor, Oxon) which are believed never to have intermitted the Roman Catholic service. Its existence is known as early as 1291; and it was open to all comers till the arrival of the Prince of Orange: some of whose soldiers, as the army was passing over Golden Mile (see *post*), defaced and plundered the chapel, broke the lamp, took away the sanctus bell, "supped out of the chalice, and taking some of the Church stuffe with them to Oxford, dressed up a mawkin in it, and set it up on the top of a bonfire." The walls of the chapel are immensely thick. In a window on the N. are the initials of Hugh Faringdon, last Abbot of Reading: and in the vestry two monumental figures, one of them being Robert, first Abbot of Poughley (*q.v.*). By marriage the Eystons are connected with the family of Sir Thomas More, whose son, "Jack More," married Anne Crisaker, the heiress of Barnborough, in Yorkshire, which till lately remained part of the Eyston property. Among the relics of Sir Thos. More preserved at E. Hendred are his drinking-cup, and curious panel portraits of him and of Cardinal Pole. Here is also one of the huge and curious pictures of the More family, of which four others are known—at Basle; Nostell, Yorks; Cokethorpe, Oxon; and one in the possession of Lord Petre. Among the figures seen here, but not always included, are those of Pattison the fool, and Heresius, the servant of Sir Thomas. The figure of Mrs. More was unfortunately cut off to make the picture fit a panel at Barnborough. Here is also to be seen the ebony walking-stick which supported Bishop Fisher on the scaffold. Near the church is another R. C. chapel.

The *Church* (107½ × 52 ft.) is disappointing; it seems to have been practically rebuilt in commonplace "Decorated." The W. tower, however, and the Eyston chapel at the S.E. are good Perp. The nave arcades are light Trans., but much restored. Some old timbers of the Dec. roof remain, and there is a curious piece of Perp. ceiling introduced under the main roof, apparently as a rood-loft sounding-

board. Three stone Perp. pillars without arches divide the S. aisle: the easternmost is said to be original. Notice the very rare *lectern* of oak, probably early Dec. In the Eyston Chapel are many memorials to that family, including a *brass* to John Eyston, 1589. Other *brasses* are to Henry and Roger Eldysley, 1439, "merchants of this town," and to Wm. Whitwey, cloth and wool merchant, 1479.

These inscriptions support the tradition that East Hendred was once a market town and a seat of the wool trade. The picturesque field beyond the church, where terraces still remain in the turf, was probably the drying-ground of the cloth which was sold at Hendred Fair. This fair, which was held on the Downs, and reached from Skutchamore Knob (*q.v.*) to Hendred, along a straight green road once known as the Golden Mile, was abolished 1620 by James I. in order to foster East Ilsley market.

11 m. **West Hendred** has an interesting and happily (1899) unrestored *Church* (84 × 38½). The chancel has fine Dec. windows and buttresses; notice the Dec. piscina, and on the N. a square-headed *low-side window*, with curious external foliation. The nave aisles are Perp.; that on the N. is called the Ginge aisle, the S. is called the Sparsholt aisle. The W. tower is Perp., with a good Dec. window built in; the S. porch, Perp., has a stone roof carried on a single rib. There are a number of old tiles, some fragments of old glass, many old benches (one with a finely carved late Dec. end) and some Jacobean woodwork. The font cover, dated 1630, and the reading desk are possibly patched up out of a late screen. The nave roof has the old lead, and there is the base of a churchyard cross. 1 m. S. from West Hendred is *Ginge Manor*, a picturesque farmhouse, Elizabethan and Queen Anne. It has a powder-closet, good staircases, and a bolt-hole.

12 m. **Ardington** is a pretty village on the fringe of Lockinge Park. The Manor-house was once the home of W. N. Clarke, the antiquary, author of "The Hundred of Wanting," etc.; and afterwards of Robert Vernon, who here collected the pictures which he bequeathed, 1847, to the nation (*vide* his bust and epitaph in the N. chapel of Ardington *Church*). The church is interesting, but has been enlarged by the addition of a modern W. bay, and is over-restored. It has a North tower, and squat E.E. spire. The chancel has an E.E. arch, E.E. piscina, and S. and N. chapels. The latter has been rebuilt, but retains an E.E. piscina, squint, and some remains of an altar-back. The S. chapel has a squint, and a curious and highly coloured monument to Edward Clarke. The S. arcade is E.E. with small "cup" piscina in the E. pier. Notice the E.E. North door, Jacobean pulpit, and the bold ball-flower round the plain Dec. font. There is a new churchyard cross on the N., and the shaft of an old one on the S. of the church.

The road here commands fine views to the N. over the Vale of the White Horse.

12½ m. At **East Lockinge** is *Lockinge House* (Lady Wantage), a modern house in a park of 167 acres, with beautiful timber, and a copious chalk spring. Lockinge is a pretty model village, and the *Church* lies in the park, close to Lockinge House.

The old church has been enlarged by the building of the present nave and S. aisle. The old Dec. chancel (now the E. part of N. aisle) deserves attention. On its N. side

are two square-headed Dec. low windows, each of two lights. The lower portions of both are blocked, and give the impression of *low-side windows*; and on the N. and S.E. faces of the chancel arch are ogee-headed cinquefoiled recesses (early Dec.) said to be blocked squints, but possibly niches in connection with the low windows. Notice the Norm. N. doorway, the Dec. ironwork on both the N. and S. doors, the E.E. chest, plain Norm. font, the Jacobean pulpit, and in the chancel the E.E. sedile, piscina, aumbry and squint. There is a "desk-kneeler" to Mrs. Millicent Grace, 1633, with pretty inscription, and *brasses* to Edward Keat of Hagbourne, 1624; and to Mary Needham, *æt.* 17, 1628, in girl's dress of the period with cape, puffed and tied sleeves, and short skirt. The tower is late Perp., and has 1564 on a stone, perhaps the date of its building.

13½ m. WANTAGE (see Rte. 12).

15½ m. **Childrey**. Over village and church hangs the shadow of a great name long since extinct. In Berkshire annals the Fettiplaces are heard of as residing at North Denchworth as early as 1263, but Childrey afterwards became their principal seat, and Sir Thomas was living there when he was made Sheriff of Berks and Oxon, 1435. Their chief seats were Childrey, Swinbrook, Besselsleigh, and East Shefford; but they had many important properties beside, and the family at one time held 31 manors. They married into the Untons of Wadley and Dunches of Little Wittenham, and are found allied with nearly all the chief families of the country-side. Sir Thomas (d. *c.* 1450) is reputed to have married Beatrix, daughter of John I. of Portugal (v. E. Shefford). Sir John paid £1943 as a delinquency fine during the Commonwealth, but was made a Baronet at the Restoration. He seems to have made (*c.* 1662) Swinbrook his headquarters, and Childrey was afterwards little used. Sir George (youngest of 4 sons of 1st Baronet, who all succeeded) died in 1743, and left £100,000 in ready money, besides his annual income. In him the male line became extinct, but Diana Fettiplace's son, Mr. Bushell, took the name of Fettyplace by Act of Parliament, 1747. His son died in 1805; and his nephew Rich[d]. Gorges took the name of Fettyplace, but died suddenly in 1806, and so the family came to an end.

Charles I. slept at Childrey on his way from Oxford to Marlborough, April 9, 1644; where Lady Fettiplace, widow of Sir Edmund, then reigned. But the mansion was ruinous in 1800, and is now represented by a comfortable house (with Perp. door and pleasant alley of clipt yews) opposite the S. side of the church. In the village is a small School (rebuilt), founded by Sir George Fettiplace, 1732. The striking shield of Fettiplace (gules, 2 chevronels argent), is constantly repeated not only in Childrey Church, but in very many others throughout the neighbourhood. The strange name is found as Fitiplace, Fetyplas, Phetiplace, and in other variations.

The *Church* as it now stands is mainly Perp., though there are 3 Dec. windows in the chancel and one in the N. transept In the chancel notice fine Perp. E. window, 3 Dec. sedilia, double piscina and squints to both transepts. On the N. is a low altar-tomb, elaborate early Perp. but patched, and a bad composition; the slab is hollowed for an Easter tomb. There are some old bench-ends and poppy-heads. In the S. transept (S. Catherine's) notice good piscina; old seat ends, one with Fettiplace arms; and door in wall leading to a "curious small stone

pulpit, projecting from the wall," noticed by Parker (1850), but since "restored" away. In N. transept (S. Mary's) notice, piscina; door to rood-stair; encaustic tiles; and fine Dec. sepulchral recess with cross-legged effigy in chain-mail, *c.* 1330. The transomed six-light Perp. window above this tomb has some most beautiful 15th-cent. *glass* (with initials W. F., for W^m^. Fettiplace, *d.* 1526), representing the Annunciation, Adoration, Crucifixion, and Ascension. Here is also a shield of Fettyplace with date 1547, removed from somewhere else. In the nave notice an E.E. *font of lead*, with 12 small mitred figures. The Church is rich in monuments to the families of Walrond, Findern, Kingston, Englefield, and Fettiplace. Some of the *Brasses* are of great interest, but space allows no more than an enumeration. In chancel: (1) headless effigy of priest, *c.* 1480; (2) John Kyngeston and wife, 1514; (3) W^m^. Finderne and wife. 1444; (4) Agnes Finderne, 1441; (5) A priest, *c.* 1480; (6) Bryan Roos, 1529; (7) W^m^. Walrond and wife, 1450. In S. transept: (8) in panelled and recessed Purbeck altar-tomb, *c.* 1510, with Fettiplace arms and *shrouded* figures; (9) W^m^. Fettiplace and wife, founders of S. Catherine's aisle, 1513; (10) Jane Walrond, *c.* 1500; (11) Eliz. and Kath. Fettiplace, both 1603; (12) Thos. Walrond and wife, 1480, who rest "under that marble stone next before the ymage of Seynt Michel."

Lying between Wantage and Childrey on the S. are Letcombe Regis and Letcombe Basset.

Letcombe Regis, one of the villages which line the "lower way," and stand out with their splendid trees like green islands in the broad tillage fields. The *Church* has been largely rebuilt. The W. tower is Trans., with some rude 2-light windows and a Perp. upper story; the font and tower-arch are Trans., and there is a Perp. N. door, with a mutilated stoup at the side. Notice in the E. window the fine 14th-cent. *painted glass*, pieced with some of later date. In the middle light is a Resurrection, with a three-towered castle under it, perhaps for Newbury. Here are also the arms of Langley of Kent, impaling Tame of Fairford, and a fragmentary inscription to John Mermylle and Alice his wife. Their kneeling figures in painted glass were perfect in Ashmole's time (1723), with a hunting-horn, and the Mermylle coat, *Or* a bat volant *Vert*.

Letcombe Basset. The little brook here has been dammed to make extensive watercress beds. The *Church* (78 × 17½ ft.) has been restored, and had a S. aisle added. The chancel has the arch plain Norm., with scroll-work on the imposts, two small Norm. windows, and some others E. E.—Dec. The rood-loft door is blocked, but the bulge of the staircase appears outside. At the sides of the chancel arch are recesses which look like blocked squints. There is a bold Norm. N. door (blocked) with a diapered tympanum. There are an E.E. font and stoup inside N. door, and the tower of brick is probably late E. E.

16½ m. **Sparsholt.** The *Church* is fine (100 × 52 ft.), and all features are Dec., unless otherwise described. There is a W. tower and shingle spire. The doorways and the windows throughout should be carefully studied; the E. window is sound modern Dec. The N. transept, once the burial-place of the owners of Kingston Lisle, was destroyed *c.* 1750, "probably with a view to escape the expense of repaire." In chancel, notice two very long and narrow squints, elaborate sedilia and piscina, and

rich ogeed sepulchral recesses. In the S. recess has been placed a boldly panelled tomb, on which is the cross-legged effigy of a knight, Dec., said to have been removed from the N. transept. In the S. transept are two similar recesses, under which are two very fine oak female effigies, veiled and wimpled. There is also an oak knight's effigy, on a modern tomb. All these effigies are Dec., and probably commemorate members of the Achard family, who held the manor *c.* 1110—1353.. In the S. transept is also a Dec. piscina, with original shelf, and a mural monument to Sir George Hyde (1623), "Knight of the Bath to our Soveraine Lord King James at his coronation of England." In the nave, notice the S. and N. doorways, Trans., the last with a curious fish-tail moulding and good undercutting; the Dec. ironwork on S. door; a medley of old glass (in a Perp. window), among which is "adjutor michi" many times repeated, and "Sca Ka(tarina)," to whom a 15th-cent. bell in the tower is inscribed; and a mural monument to John Pleydell (1593). The roofs are fine open Dec., and singularly perfect. There are *brasses*: (1) Priest vested, *c.* 1400; (2) a knight, *c.* 1500; (3) a female figure, *c.* 1510; (4) a layman, *c.* 1500; (5) Nich. Cooke, vicar, 1603; (6) Thos. Todhunter, vicar, 1627; (7) John Fettyplace, 1602; (8) John Williamson, vicar, 1633; (9) Rich. Edmondson, 1674. Ashmole records a brass plate to Wm. de Herleston, 1330, who built the chancel; but this has disappeared. In the churchyard are a fine yew and the base of a cross.

17½ m. **Kingston Lisle,** a very pretty tree-embowered village, with many yews, clipt box hedges and vines. It gained its cognomen from the great family of de Lisle (de Insula), lords of the manor from the Conquest to *c.* 1360. The *Church* is small (60½ by 19 ft.), and has little of interest except a plain Norm. S. doorway, with Dec. ironwork on the door; but *Kingston Lisle House*, close to it, has a fine park of 120 acres. The house is beautifully situated, with clipt yews and a terraced lawn in front of it, which commands a deep wooded glen. On the N. is a most picturesque avenue leading to the Ickleton road.

About ¼ m. N.W. of the church (where the road to Lambourn turns abruptly up the down) are some commonplace cottages, in front of which is the (in appearance) much overrated **Blowing Stone**. It is a comparatively small (3 ft. high, 3 ft. 6 in. long, 2 ft. thick) brown Sarsen, with a number of natural holes in it, such as are found sometimes in sea pebbles. For a "consideration" the cottagers remove a padlocked wood cover, which closes a hole at the top of the stone, and the visitor can then test his skill in blowing. An expert blower can produce a sound exactly resembling the distant foghorn of a steamer, which can be heard, it is said, in still weather, at Faringdon Clump, 6 m. away. The stone is said to have been found on White Horse Hill, and, as a local poet sings:—

"Atkins has preserved with care
This mystic remnant of the day
When Alfred ruled with regal sway:
And when the wise decrees of Fate
Made friend and foe confess him Great,
This trumpet loudly did proclaim
His wars, his wisdom, and his fame."

About 1½ m. N.W. of Kingston Lisle is

Uffington. Here is Uffington *Junction Stat.*, whence a branch line of 3½ miles goes off to Faringdon on the N.

Uffington is a pleasant village, and is often made a point of de-

parture for the White Horse, which lies directly above it. Etymologists have fancied the name to mean Offa's-town, Offa, King of Mercia, having gained it, 780, by the conquest of Kinewulf, King of Wessex. The village is described in the opening chapters of "Tom Brown's Schooldays."

The noble *Church* (114 × 23½ ft.; over transepts 74½ ft.), is a familiar object to travellers on the G.W.R. It is cruciform, with a centre tower, and almost entirely E.E.: in the following description all features are to be considered as belonging to that style, unless otherwise specified. The work both inside and out is excellent, and deserves close attention. A church is known to have been building here by Fabritius, Abbot of Abingdon, 1105, but the complete structure must be referred to 1140—1150. The chancel has a triplet at the E. end, and double lancets at the side, all divided by detached and banded shafts, with bold moulded capitals —which is the character of the windows throughout. There are three-stepped sedilia and a piscina. At the intersection of the transepts are four fine arches, that on the W. being especially rich.

In the N. transept are two E. altar recesses, with magnificent acute arches inside, and curious gables (cf. St. Giles, Oxford) outside. These gables are roofed in plain flat stone without ribs, and give an appearance of the heads of the lights being cut off by the roof-slope; but all the work is of the same date. In the S. transept is a single recess of similar character, and on the S. side of all the recesses is a trefoiled piscina. In the N. transept is a set of "bin" aumbries (cf. Langford, Oxon), and in both transepts are some good Dec. pew ends.

In the nave, the heads of the W. triplet and of the N.E. and S.E. windows have been cut off by a flat lead roof, which was put on 1678 (the present roof is about 30 years old). An inscription on the N. wall states: "This church long ruined, repaired by Richard Saunders and Thomas Lockey, Churchwardens in the yeare 1678." There is a very remarkable circular window, with bold sexfoliation over the blocked N. door. There is an upper and lower string-course going round the church inside and out, taken over the windows and stepped over the E. triplet.

Outside, notice 12 small circular recesses, said to have held brass dedication crosses; on S. of the chancel porch and priest's door; on E. of the S. transept a good porch, roundheaded, with E.E. mouldings and quatrefoil in head; on S. of nave splendid E.E. porch with quadripartite vaulting, and priest's room over, which has a Perp. chimney. The pinnacles of this porch were broken by the fall of the steeple in 1740. In the angle of N. transept and nave is a bold E.E. staircase-turret. The centre tower is oct. E.E., with long squinches; the top storey, which seems to have carried a spire, has been rebuilt. In an old Bible in the village is an entry: "Dec., 2nd day, 1740. Then was Uffington steeple beat down by a tempas, wind, thunder, and liten." The monuments are unimportant, but there is a full-length figure of John Saunders, 1638, in a niche in the S. transept, and a brass plate below to John Saunders, 1599.

The church is covered with a mellow rough-cast, and in the churchyard are fine yews. On the S. of the church is a small chalk building, given by John Saunders, 1617, as a school, now a reading-room.

For the *White Horse*, see p. 90.

Baulking is a scattered village with goose-greens, ¾ m. from Uffington Station.

The *Church* (78½ × 18 ft.) has a good E.E. chancel, with triplet at E, divided by good shafts. There is a fine E.E. angle piscina, with N. and W. openings. The wall dividing nave and chancel is only taken up level with the top of the side walls, and is pierced by an E.E. chancel arch, a double E.E. squint on S., and a single squint on the N. On the N. is also the rood-staircase door, and the general effect is that of a very heavy screen. Notice the excellent roof, probably Dec., but with 16th-cent. tie-beams, an enormously solid E.E. oct. font, a Jacobean pulpit, and a gilt clunch mural monument to Robert Grove, 1698.

19½ m. ✠ **Woolstone**, a hamlet close under the *White Horse*, has a small (72 × 35 ft.) chalk-built *Church* with Trans. chancel and S. Transeptal arches, and late Norm. N. door. The chancel seems to have settled, and the E. end has been rebuilt *c.* 1760. Notice the *lead font*, probably E.E., with exceedingly rude patterning. The base is stone, Norm., with modern mouldings at bottom.

20½ m. **Compton Beauchamp**, another tree-embowered village at the foot of the down, has a fine manor-house. The house, built with an inner quadrangle, is stone in front (18th cent.), and brick at back (16th cent.) A fine avenue of elms leads to it, and it has a perfect moat, covered with water-lilies. The lawns and gardens, which rise up the hillside in terraces, are shut in with splendid elms, and there is a dark yew-alley called "The Cloister Walk."

The *Church* (71½ × 46 ft.) is cruciform and interesting. In the chancel, notice: a pillar piscina E.E. (altered), a plain E.E. sedile, and a *low-side window* at S.W. In the Dec. E. window is some 14th-cent. glass representing the annunciation, with legend Ave Maria inverted. In the Dec. E. window of N. transept is a patched (14th-cent.) Crucifixion. There is a *Brass* inscription to Wm. Framton, rector, *c.* 1450. There are some mural monuments to the Hawkswell and Langley families, and peculiarly fulsome ones to Mrs. Rachel Richards, her daughter, and housekeeper.

22½ m. **Ashbury** is a pretty village on the confines of Wiltshire. It is shaded by trees, and watered by some of those curious intermittent springs, of which mention is made elsewhere (p. 76). The manor was given by Edred to Glastonbury Abbey, and at the Dissolution passed into the hands of the family of Essex (*see* Lambourn) from whom it was purchased in 1625 by Sir William, afterwards Lord Craven. The *Manor-house* is an interesting 15th-cent. building, still moated on three sides. The porch bears initials, and the dates 1488 and 1697. There is some excellent woodwork in the house, and upstairs the remains of a Perp. screen probably taken from the *Church*.

The church (116 × 61 ft.) is a fine cruciform building. The W. tower is plain E.E., the nave Perp., the transepts and chancel Dec. Notice the Perp. nave-arcades, the Perp. timber and plaster roof, the very good plain Dec. windows of the chancel, and the panelled Perp. font. In the S. transept is a very curious and large squint, filled with Dec. tracery. The S. door is fine Norm.; on the N. is a Perp. porch with fan vaulting and a very small parvise. There are several piscinæ; and *Brasses:* 1. Thomas de Buschbury, Rector, 1409. 2. John de Walden, 3. Wm. de Skelton, Rector, 1448. A pair of pricket altar candlesticks, brass, with gilding and blue enamel, *c.* 1400, have now

disappeared. On the pulpit is a little brass plate recording the death of the Rev. W. Matthews while preaching, Jan. 9th, 1870. The Sunday-school system is said to have been originated at Ashbury by Rev. J. Stock, curate, in 1777.

An expedition may be made from Ashbury along the Ridgeway (*see* Rte. 9).

ROUTE 9.

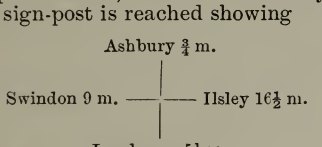
THE RIDGEWAY.

About 15 miles.

Alfred's Camp, Ashdown Park, Wayland Smith's Cave, Uffington Castle, Letcombe Castle, Scutchamore Knob.

The Ridgeway is practicable for a proficient bicyclist, but is not to be recommended for the tyro, or for the rider of a light machine.

A delightful expedition can be made along the upper British track-way on the top of the Downs, called, in Berkshire, the Ridgeway. The best point of departure is Ashbury, whence a steep road leads up the down, till at 4 cross-ways a sign-post is reached showing



Here the great sward track is seen running along the top of the hills. In breadth it varies from 60 to 200 ft.; it is for the most part of grass, but here and there the chalk comes through. There are on it many mole-hills and deep ruts, and on either side runs an earth mound, sometimes surmounted with a wind-bitten thorn. There is an impressive solitude in the vast hedgeless tillage fields, dotted now and again with a rick-yard or byre, and very rarely with a farm-house. At more frequent intervals are clumps of firs or beech, known locally as "Follies." The views are magnificent, and the traveller is strongly recommended to extend his excursion along the top of the down for about 15 miles, till the main road from Newbury to Oxford crosses the Ridgeway. The bold hills S. are the Lambourn Downs.

Before setting out along the Ridgeway, Alfred's Camp and Ashdown House may be visited. To do this follow the Lambourn road for 1 m. till a grass-track leads off on the r. to **Alfred's Camp**. This is a small circular earthwork, with a single vallum. Here, in early autumn, an extraordinary effect is produced by the flying thistledown, which covers the sward and curiously resembles snow.

Quite unfounded tradition says that at the battle of Ashdown, Uffington Castle (see *post*) was occupied by the Danes, Hardwell Castle (1 m. N.E., a square earthwork, 140 × 180 ft., surrounded by a double vallum) by Ethelred, and Alfred's Camp by Alfred.

The famous battle of Æscesdun, or Ashdown, took place early in the year 871, after a contest at Reading, in which the Pagans had "possession of the place of carnage," *i.e.* the victory. "King Ethelred and his brother Alfred fought the whole army of Pagans on Ashdown. The Danish army was in two bodies: in the one were Bagsæc and Halfdene, the heathen kings; in the other were the earls.

The Christian army was also divided into two bodies. Things being so settled, the King remained a long time in prayer, hearing the mass, and said he would not leave it till the priest had done, or abandon the protection of God for that of men. And so he did, which afterwards availed him much with the Almighty, as we shall see in the sequel. But the Pagans came up quickly to the fight. Then Alfred, although holding a lower authority, could no longer support the troops of the enemy, unless he retreated, or charged upon them without waiting for his brother; so he marched out promptly with his men in a close column, and gave them battle." Alfred fought with the troops of the Earls, and King Ethelred with the troops of the Kings, the Christians coming up from below, and the Pagans occupying the higher ground, where was a single stunted thorn-tree, "around which the opposing hosts came together, with loud shouts from all sides, the one to pursue their wicked course, the other to fight for their lives, their dearest ties, and their country. And when both hosts had fought long and bravely, at last the Pagans, by God's judgment, could no longer bear the attack of the Christians, and, having lost great part of their men, took to a disgraceful flight, and all the Pagan host pursued its flight, not only until night, but the next day, even until they reached the stronghold from which they had come out. The Christians followed, slaying all they could reach, until it became dark." "And the flower of the Pagan youth was there slain, so that neither before nor since was ever such destruction known since the Saxons first gained Britain by their arms." "There fell in that battle King Bagsæc ('slain by the spear of King Ethelred,' *Brompton*), and these earls with him: that old Earl Sidroc, to whom may be applied that saying, 'the ancient of evil days,' and Earls Sidroc the younger, Osberne, Frene, and Harold."—*Saxon Chronicles.*

A dozen places have been warmly championed by different antiquaries, as the real site of the battle of Ashdown, but it is probable that the term "Æscesdun" refers to the whole ridge rather than to any single point of it. In any case, if a particular place has to be found for the fighting, it must be sought at the E. rather than the W. end of the ridge.

Alfred's Camp borders on the grounds of Ashdown Park.

Ashdown Park (Earl Craven). The situation is so remarkable that tradition is called in to account for it. Accordingly we are told that a Craven who was Lord Mayor of London (Sir W. Craven was Lord Mayor 1611), flying from an outbreak of plague in the Metropolis, rode on, till high on these downs he spied a solitary farmhouse. There for the first time he felt he should be secure, and there he built a house with four avenues leading to the four cardinal points, and with windows on two sides of all the rooms; so that if the plague came in at one side it might go out at the other. However that may be, the story is certainly not true of that great soldier of love and fortune, William first Earl Craven. He resided at Craven House, Drury Lane, through the whole of the plague outbreak, 1665-6, and at the hazard of his own life he did his best to preserve order. He also purchased a field on which 36 small "pesthouses" were built, and made near it a common burial-ground, where thousands of corpses were buried. The site was at Bayswater, and Craven Hill still preserves his name. This Earl Craven championed Elizabeth, Queen of Bohe-

mia, only daughter of James I., and ancestress of Queen Victoria, in the Thirty Years' War; and on the death of her husband, the Elector Palatine, gave her a refuge in his house of Combe Abbey, Warwickshire. Here, legend says, he married her, having entertained a chivalrous devotion to her for more than half a lifetime. At the Revolution, 1688, being then over 80, he commanded the Life Guards.

"The Coldstream Guards were on duty at the Palace. They were commanded by William, Earl of Craven, who more than 50 years before had been distinguished in war and love; who had led the forlorn hope at Creuznach with such courage that he had been patted on the shoulder by the great Gustavus; and who was believed to have won from a thousand rivals the heart of the unfortunate Queen of Bohemia. Craven was then in his 80th year, but time had not tamed his spirit. It was past 10 o'clock when he was informed that three battalions of the Prince's foot, mingled with some troops of horse, were pouring down the long avenue of St. James's Park, with matches lighted, and in full readiness for action. Count Solmes, who commanded these foreigners, said his orders were to take military possession of the posts round Whitehall, and exhorted Craven to retire peaceably. Craven swore he would rather be cut in pieces; but when the king learnt what was passing, he forbade the stout old soldier to attempt a resistance which must have been ineffectual. By eleven the Coldstream Guards had withdrawn, and Dutch sentinels were pacing the rounds on every side of the palace."—*Macaulay*, *History of England*, chap. ix.

Tradition has it that he was fond of attending fires, on a fine white horse, a circumstance on which some *bons mots* were based in Charles II.'s court. He died nearly 90 in 1697.

The existing Ashdown Park was built for him by Webb, a pupil of Inigo Jones, who inherited Inigo's plans. All the chimneys unite in two massive quadrangular piles at the sides, while between them is a belvidere, having in the centre a cupola containing a lantern, which used to be lighted occasionally, to guide homewards shooting or coursing parties on the down. On the oak staircase are some of the stags' horns brought by the Queen Elizabeth of Bohemia from Germany, and there are portraits of her, of her devoted William, first Earl, of Prince Rupert, Prince Maurice, her son, and of the four princesses, by *Honthorst*.

Lying on the turf in front of Ashdown House are many Sarsen Stones (see Kingston Lisle), locally known as the *Grey Wethers*. They are the remains of a tertiary stratum of Bagshot Sand, indurated, with which the chalk was once overlaid. Aubrey says that in his time Alfred's Castle (see *ante*) was "almost quite defaced by digging for Sarsen Stones to build my Lord Craven's house."

Return to the sign-post and take the Ilsley turning.

¾ m. on the l. is a circular clump of beeches 50 yards from the road, covering what remains of a "degraded" barrow. In the middle of it is the broken-down sepulchral chamber called **Wayland Smith's Cave**. One covering-stone remains *in situ*. The inside height of the cromlech is 3 ft., and the highest stone now rises 4 ft. from the ground. Group and chamber comprise 32 stones. The local tradition that an invisible smith called Wayland had his abode on this spot, who would shoe a traveller's horse if left here for a short time, with a piece of money for payment, gave rise to one of the most striking

scenes in Sir W. Scott's novel of "Kenilworth." It is believed that Wayland Smith's fee was sixpence, and that, unlike other workmen, he was offended if more was offered.

2¼ m. On the l. of the track is **Uffington Castle**, an oval earthwork 700 ft. from E. to W., and 500 ft. from N. to S. It is surrounded by a bold inner vallum, with traces of another on the outside, and the highest point (893 ft. above sea level) is marked by a flat stone let into the turf, inscribed "Station of 1799."

The camp commands a gigantic panorama, and just over the brow of the hill is the *White Horse* from which the Vale takes its name.

Drayton, in the *Polyolbion*, says that, but for the Vale of Evesham,—

"This White-horse all the vales of Britaine would o'erbeare,
And absolutely sit in th' Imperiall chaire;
And boasts as goodly heards and numerous flocks to feed,
To have as soft a gleabe, as good increase of seed;
As pure and fresh an ayre upon her face to blowe
As Evesham for her life: and from her steed doth showe
Her lustie rising downes."

The Horse is cut on the N.W. face of the hill, and, being 374 ft. in length, and stretching over an acre of ground, is visible from a distance of 20 m. when the afternoon sun is shining upon it. It is formed by trenches 2 or 3 ft. deep, and about 10 ft. broad; the head, neck, body, and tail are represented by one continuous line, varying very little in width, and the legs are each formed by a single line. The figure of the Horse is exceedingly rude, and bears a close resemblance to the "disjointed horse" of the British coinage *c.* 50 B.C., which was a degradation of the *biga* on Philip's stater. It was formerly believed that this horse was cut as a memorial of Alfred's victory at Ashdown (871), but it is almost certainly 1000 years earlier.

The hill slopes down abruptly, first into a hollow like a broken crater, and afterwards into a beautiful curving valley. This valley is cultivated at the foot of the hill, but farther down is filled with trees, among which nestles the little village of Woolstone (*q.v.*). The W. bank of this hollow is called "The Manger," and a number of vertical gullies on it, supposed to represent the bars of the manger, are also known as the "Giant's Stairs."

A steep detached chalk "knob" on the other side is known as "the Dragon's Hill," where, according to local folk-lore, St. George killed the dragon, "whose blood made a pool on the top, and ran down the steps on the other side, where the grass has never grown since." The story is told by Job Cork, the Uffington shepherd-poet:

"Ah, zur, I can remember well
The stories the old volk do tell—
Upon this hill which here is zeen,
Many a battle there have been.

"If it is true as I heerd zay,
King Gaarge did here the dragon zlay,
And down below on yonder hill,
They buried he, as I've heerd tell."

Faringdon Clump can be seen in the distance (N.) with Badbury Camp a little to the left of it, and from the foot of the hill a white road leads straight to Uffington, where the great church, with its centre tower, stands clearly out.

6 m. Here cross-roads diverge to Sparsholt, Childrey, Challow, and Lambourn, and just beyond the sign-post, about 200 yds, to the l., is the **Punch Bowl**, another rounded crater-like hollow. It justifies its name when seen from a point a mile farther along the Ridgeway. At the bottom of it is the little village of Letcombe Basset.

8 m. Proceeding along the Ridgeway, **Letcombe Castle**, or Sagbury, is reached on the l. This is a hill camp, lying 2½ m. S.W. of Wantage, and some 800 ft. above

the sea. It is about 26 acres in extent, and has a single ditch, with some traces of another. At the foot of the hill is Letcombe Regis, and a little farther off can be seen red-brick Wantage, with its bold church tower.

9 m. Here the road from Wantage to Newbury and Hungerford crosses the track, and if the traveller desires to follow the Ridgeway, he must here turn down the road to Wantage till he finds the green track again on his right hand a little lower down. The track is very bad for bicycles for ½ m., and then becomes indistinct. After passing a water reservoir for supplying neighbouring farms, however, it resumes its normal character, with the grass mound on either side.

12 m. A mile beyond the reservoir, a thickly planted hedge of beech and fir half conceals a tumulus on the top of the hill called **Scutchamore Knob.** The name (which has variants, such as Cuckamsley, Skoochamfly, etc.), is a corruption of Cwichelm's *hleaw*, or hill, and tradition says the barrow is the burial-place of Cwichelm. He ruled conjointly with Cynegils over the West Saxons, and was killed in 626, fighting against Edwin of Northumbria, who came hither to avenge an attempt to murder him. The tumulus is about 21 ft. high and 140 yds. in circumference, but was half dug down some years ago.

The Saxon Chronicle, describing the battle of Æscesdun, narrates how the Danes "turned along Æscesd unto Cwichelmshleaw, and there awaited better cheer,"—an account versified by Robert of Gloucester,—

"Much sorrow they deede in Berkschire about Assbedoune,
And about Quicholmes destroyed many a towne."

Cwichelm's hleaw is believed to have been a common place of assembly for the people of Wessex; and, as it is remote from the sea, it was, in the time of Ethelred II., considered safe from the inroads of the Danes. But we read in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, under the year 1006, that this was mistaken confidence. "They [the Danes] went to Wallingford, and burned it all down; and were then one night at Cholsey, and then went along Ashdown to Cwichelm's hleaw, and there tarried out of threatening vaunt, because it had often been said, if they came to Cwichelm's hleaw, they would never go to the sea. They then went home by another way."

These hills were formerly the scene of a celebrated fair, which was abolished by James I., 1620, in order to promote the welfare of the market at East Ilsley. From one point the straight green road of *Golden Mile* leads down towards East Hendred.

The Ridgeway leads on over grand open grass downs, with training-gallops marked out with white posts and chains, until, about 3 m. farther, the main road from Oxford to Newbury crosses the track. This is a convenient point to terminate the excursion, as the most characteristic part of the down has now been traversed, and the traveller can descend to Newbury on the one hand, or on the other to Wallingford, Abingdon, or Oxford, as he pleases.

The adventurous may continue to follow the Ridgeway till *Lowbury Camp* and the *Fair Mile* are reached (*q.v.*). From the end of the Fair Mile tracks descend to Cholsey and Streatley. This adds about 8 m. of rough riding to the route.

ROUTE 10.

NEWBURY TO OXFORD

(By Ilsley and Abingdon.)

26 miles.

Chieveley, Peasemore, Beedon, Catmore, The Ilsleys, Chilton, Steventon, Milton, Drayton, Abingdon, Sunningwell, Bayworth, Bagley Wood, The Hinkseys, Radley.

From Newbury to Ilsley the road rises steadily, and is apt to work loose in dry weather: after Ilsley the road lies practically through a plain, and the surface is excellent.

Leaving Newbury (Rte. 7) the road runs at the foot of the hill (on the l.), which is crowned by the ruins of *Donnington Castle* (Rte. 7). R., 1 m. is *Shaw House* (Rte. 7).

4 m. **Chieveley** lies a little off the high-road on the left. On North Heath Common, just outside the village, Cromwell and Waller encamped the night before the second battle of Newbury, as they were making a flank march to Speen Hill. Cromwell himself is said to have slept at the *Old Blue Boar Inn*, an ancient roadside hostelry which still flourishes.

The large *Church* has a simple but pleasing E.E. chancel, the E. triplet of which is good, but has been tampered with inside. Nave and N. aisle are modern. In the chancel notice the wood frame said to have supported the Lenten Veil. This veil was hung before the high altar from the first day of Lent till Good Friday, and was sometimes suspended by a cord, as at Blewbury (*q.v.*), and sometimes on a beam or wooden frame, as at Durham Cathedral, where it carried candles and figures. The W. tower massive E.E. with Perp. upper story, should be climbed for a fine view of the Downs. There is a shield left of a mutilated *brass*.

In the village are several tumble-down half-timber houses. The best has plain barge boards and projecting porch, but is now (1899) ruinous.

On the road, 6 m. from Newbury, is a small Inn called *Langley Hall*, and opposite are the gates and picturesque overgrown drive of Langley Hall: pulled down *c.* 1850. The lodge-gates came from the Hodcott Hall, near W. Ilsley, built by Inigo Jones and pulled down *c.* 1820.

Lying some distance off the road on the l. are the villages of **Leckhampstead** and **Peasemore**, with modern churches. In Peasemore Church is a stone to William Coward, *d.* 1739, "who with an income of £110 at most, was eminently hospitable and charitable, gave the Communion Flagon and Paten, the Tower, and great Bell," and left £40 for the poor. "Such were the good Effects of Virtue and Oeconomy. Read Grandeur and blush." There is a *brass* plate to Thomas Stampe, 1636, and another with a coat-of-arms.

6½ m. ¾ mile l. of road

Beedon has a Trans. *Church* (87 × 22 ft.) well restored. There is a good E. triplet of lancets divided by graceful banded shafts,

and having well-cut Trans. mouldings in the heads. The font is good plain E.E. On the S. of chancel is apparently a Perp. *low-side window.* Close to the church is an 18th-cent. farmhouse with great barns.

Some considerable distance to the left

Catmore lies in a very remote position. The village proper consists of one farmhouse and a cottage, the rest of the inhabitants residing at a hamlet called Lilley. The little church and the picturesque farmhouse, shut in with barns and surrounded with fine trees, form a very pretty group. On the *outside* of the farmhouse is a curious smoke-jack, now disused. The *Church* ($56\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ ft.) is plain Norm. without aisles. Chancel-arch, N. door (blocked), and S. door very plain with billet, and a single bird's-beak in the middle, are excellent, but the windows have been "restored" in the forties. Notice the good Jacobean roof, plaster and wood with good mouldings, and bracket pendants. It bears a date 1607 and initials W. E., and J. E., for the Eystons of East Hendred, who still own the manor. At Catmore is a very deep well.

After passing through open country, with fine views, the road reaches at

9 m. **Great** or **East Ilsley**, a picturesque village, with red roofs and bowering trees, lying in a steep hollow of the hills. The name was formerly written Hildesley or Huldesley; and some, deriving it from *Hilde læg* (the battle field), have made it a site of the battle of Ashdown. Near it is supposed to have stood the old Saxon town of Nachededorne, the site of which may be perpetuated in a hill close by called Thorndown. "Round a single thorn-tree of stunted growth," says Asser, "the conflict was fiercest at Ashdown" (see Rte. 9).

The Hildesleys were long lords of the manor, and have their monuments in the church. John Hilsey, who succeeded Bishop Fisher of Rochester (1535-8), was one of this family. Richard Wightwick (*d.* 1630), benefactor and co-founder with Tesdale, of Pembroke College, Oxford, was rector of East Ilsley, and gave the great bell (19 cwt.) in Ilsley tower. Mr. Barnes, his successor, was sequestered under the Commonwealth, and "a merciless zealot, one Edward Allen, coming out of the *Lamb* Inn, threatened to do the parson's business, and immediately with a kick broke his leg." Barnes was restored with the King, 1660.

The down turf at Ilsley is said to be particularly springy, and the neighbourhood has always been famous for horse training. The Duke of Cumberland ("Butcher Cumberland"), George II.'s brother, had a great mansion at Cat's-, Kate's-, or Keat's-Gore, close by East Ilsley, to which training stables were attached. Here Eclipse was born, April 1, 1764. The Duke died 1765, and the stud, including Eclipse, Herod, Marske, Milksop, and Childers, went to the hammer.

Ilsley is now chiefly remarkable for its sheep market, which existed as early as the reign of Henry III., and is the largest in this part of England. It is held on every alternate Wednesday, from a fortnight before Easter to the first week of July, and there are besides constant *fairs.* The most important is on August 26, and it is said that at it as many as 80,000 sheep have been penned and 55,000 sold. The noise and bustle on such occasions surpass belief.

A local jingle says :—

"Ilsley, remote amidst the Berkshire downs,
Claims these distinctions o'er her sister towns :
Far-famed for sheep and wool, though not for spinners,
For sportsmen, doctors, publicans, and sinners."

As far as publicans go it is a true bill : there are eight inns, of which the best are the *Lamb* and *Swan*.

The *Church*, in a masterful position at the top of the village, has a plain E.E. chancel, E.E. S. aisle with Trans. arcade, good open roof, and E.E. piscina. There is a Jacobean pulpit ; the N. aisle is modern. A *brass* inscription commemorates the wife of William Hildeslea, 1606.

1½ m. N.W. is **West Ilsley**, a pretty village sequestered in a valley of the downs. The *Church*, "rebuilt and beautified in 1878, has no interest whatever. This village has acquired a certain celebrity from two versatile men who were once its rectors. The learned Antonio de Dominis, Archbishop of Spalatro, who was converted to Protestantism and fled to England, was presented to this living by James I., in 1616. He wrote "De Republica Ecclesiastica," and preached constantly against the Papal power; but having been made Dean of Windsor, and being angry at obtaining no higher preferment, he re-entered the Romish Church, on promise of pardon from Gregory XV. He returned to Rome, hoping to be made a cardinal, but was, instead, imprisoned in the castle of St. Angelo, and died there, probably by poison, in 1624 or 1625. He was succeeded by Goodman, Bishop of Gloucester, who was visited here by Charles I. (in the old rectory-house, now destroyed), on his way to Donnington Castle in 1644. He had been driven from his see, but was for some years allowed to hold this living. Refusing, at length, to sign certain canons of doctrine and discipline, he was, says Walker, "spoiled, plundered, and utterly undone"; and he died, Jan. 1656, in the Romish faith. Fuller says that "he was the single bishop of 200 who had lived since the Reformation, whom the vile and detestable practice of those who engross to themselves the name of Protestants had scandalised into Popery." He always professed the most devoted loyalty, but, with the inconsistency that marked his character, he dedicated his "Discourse on the Trinity" to Cromwell. He was a notorious pluralist; and on his death-bed was confessed by the famous Jesuit Father, A. St. Clara. In the register is an entry by Goodman: "Least in future time there might be strife and contention amongst neighbours, I do hereby certifie that I never heard that any Parishioner did clayme a propretie in the seates within our churche."

After Ilsley the road crosses the Ridgeway, and descends into the Vale of the White Horse.

12 m. Here at the foot of the down on the rt. is the village of **Chilton**, with a Trans. Norm. *Church* (73 × 30½ ft.), with Perp. insertions. Notice the rough Dec.-Perp. E. window ; the rich Trans. Norm. pillar of S. arcade; the Trans. Norm. font and Dec. image-niche on N. wall. The S. porch and W. tower are modern.

Here lived the family of Latton, of which *brasses* exist at Blewbury. Their mansion is now represented by the pleasant house and training stables of Mr. Thos. Stevens, opposite the E. end of the church.

About 2 m. beyond Chilton the route is crossed by a main road leading E. to Wallingford and Reading, and W. to Wantage and

Faringdon. Harwell is 1 m. to the rt. and East Hendred 1½ m. to the l. of the crossing (see Rte. 8).

15½ m. **Steventon** (*stat.*) is a straggling village, with a raised stone causeway, or "flood-path" running the whole length of it. It is planted with trees on both sides, and "two sisters, by ancient report" (as may be seen on a board in the church), left land to maintain it. The long "row" of the village contains many interesting old houses. One (dated 1657) has a pargetted front with barge boards, and a panelled and curiously painted room inside. Another 16th-cent. half-timber house has a great chimney, and a pargetting date of 1740.

The *Church* is interesting. The windows are mostly Dec., but the E. window is late Perp., badly restored. On N. of chancel is a bold three-light Dec. window. There are excellent piscinæ and mutilated sedilia, an Elizab. pulpit, a 1633 poor-box, and some good seat-ends. Notice the good coved roof in oak, with medallion bosses; also the Dec. arches carrying tower on S. They have ball-flower, and rare oak-leaf and festooned rose mouldings in capitals. There is a mutilated *brass* with two figures, *c.* 1450, and an elaborate *brass* to Thos. Wiseman, 1584. In the churchyard is a cross restored, and a fine yew.

At Steventon was a Dominican Priory, a cell of the Abbey of Bec, in Normandy, it was suppressed with the other alien Houses.

Milton, 1 m. E., and reached by a pleasant bridle-path along the Mill Brook, has a rebuilt *Church*. W. of the church is Milton House, of which the main block was built by Inigo Jones. In the house is a R. C. chapel, with some dark painted glass (16th cent.) removed from the chancel of Steventon church, at a restoration 50 years since.

2 m. N.E. is SUTTON COURTNEY (see Rte. 6).

17 m. **Drayton** has an interesting *Church* (101½ × 45½ ft.). The chancel and S. transeptal chapel have been rebuilt, and the Perp. N. aisle has been extended E.; but the work is good. There is a Perp. tower with bold gabled stair-turret (cf. St. Nicholas, Abingdon). Notice E.E. piscina on the S. wall, a Jacobean pulpit, and some good Perp. seat-ends. In the S. chapel is a good aumbry, with wood door and original Dec. ironwork; a fine E.E. double piscina, and parts of an elaborate Perp. alabaster reredos. These carvings were found buried, at the digging of a vault, 1814. There are six panels of great merit, richly gilt and coloured, representing the Annunciation, Nativity, Betrayal, Scourging, Burial, and the Assumption. The Crucifixion and half the Annunciation are missing.

On the back of the last pew on the N. side is an inscription recording its being given, in 1632, by John Tirrall, to whom there is a *brass*, 1632. The peal of 8 bells is a favourite of ringers, and some astonishing campanological exploits are recorded on boards under the tower. There is a restored churchyard cross.

At the E. end of the village is an old house of the Eystons of Hendred, but it has been gutted, and a domestic chapel which it once possessed is done away.

19½ m. ✠ **ABINGDON**, a pleasant, growing town on a branch of the G.W.R. from Didcot to Oxford. It lies in a rich plain at the junction of the Ock with the Thames, and sprang up originally round the great Abbey

founded here in the 7th cent. During the middle ages it was merely a dependency, not always an obedient one, of the Abbey; but it became of some importance after the 14th cent., when the cloth trade took root here, as in other Berkshire towns. Leland, writing about 1540, says "the town stondith by clothing," but this industry has long ago forsaken it, and it is now mainly an agricultural centre. Abingdon returned a member to Parliament from 1337 to 1885.

Legendary history places here a town called *Seovechesham* or *Seusham*, which was a wealthy city, a royal residence, and a religious centre in early British times. It was not, however, occupied by the Saxon kings until the Mercian Offa, paying an accidental visit to the place, became enamoured of the isle of Andersey, situated in the river opposite the Abbey. This was at that time occupied by rich lay monks, but the king persuaded them to give it him in exchange for the manor of Goosey (Rte. 13). He built a palace at Andersey, and here he and his son Egfrid resided. Cynulf, the next king, gave up the palace to his huntsmen and falconers, who made themselves so disagreeable to the monks that Abbot Rethunus persuaded Cynulf to restore them Andersey in exchange for the manor of Sutton Courtney (Rte. 6), and £120 in silver.

The story told in the "Abingdon Chronicle" (Master of the Rolls' Collection) is that the site originally chosen for the monastery was a hill called Aben-dun, at Bayworth (*q.v.*), and that it derived its name from a certain holy Aben. He "stole away from the massacre at Stonehenge, and lived here in retirement, where the inhabitants, flocking to him to hear the word of God, built him a dwelling-place and a chapel in honour of the Holy Virgin. But he, disliking their resort, stole away to Ireland." It is, however, much more probable that the name had its origin in the direct connection of the Abbey with the place. The Abbey is reputed to have been founded in 675 by Cyssa, viceroy of Centwin, king of Wessex, and was to contain twelve Benedictine monks; Cadwall, his successor, gave also the town of Seovechesham, commanding that it should henceforth be called Abingdon. The town and monastery suffered many vicissitudes, and were ravaged by the Danes in Alfred's reign; but the Abbey was refounded and re-endowed by Edred, who induced St. Ethelwold, then a monk at Glastonbury, to become its abbot. The site was then changed from Bayworth to Abingdon; the new building was consecrated with great pomp by St. Dunstan, and each saint presented it with two bells of his own workmanship. "This was the second Benedictine house established in England. No exertion of its new superior was wanting to render it the parent of many others. Aware that Continental monasteries excelled in reading and singing, he procured masters from Corby to instruct his own society. He seems to have doubted whether, even under Dunstan, there had been opportunities for a thorough acquaintance with monastic discipline; he sent accordingly Osgar, one of his monks, to Fleury for further instruction." At the time of the Domesday survey, the Abbey possessed no less than thirty manors in Berkshire, besides lands in the counties of Oxford, Warwick, and Gloucester. Dugdale gives a list of the titles of 126 charters received from Saxon kings. William I. favoured the monks of Abingdon, and on a visit to them in 1080 he left with them his son Henry, who thus gained

his appellation of Beauclerk. The "Chronicle," however, tells much of discord and disorder within, just such as would be bred by prosperity, and were likely to invite sooner or later royal interference. After the close of the "Chronicle" we find a second dark period in the Abbey story. We hear of fights with the town, generally caused by "the unreasonable dealings of the abbot and convent" in the matter of a market. In 1327, the town, aided by the Mayor of Oxford, "accompanied, 'tis said, with some scholars of a desperate condition, and glad of any diversion rather than to study," attacked the Abbey, burnt part of it, drove out the monks, and destroyed their muniments. Twelve of the ringleaders were afterwards hanged. The Abbey, however, continued to grow in wealth and influence down to the very period of its dissolution. Its abbots had a seat in Parliament, and their power and pride were such as to draw from the author of "Piers Plowman," in the middle of the 14th cent., a direct prophecy of their downfall:

> "Ac [eke] ther shal come a kyng,
> And confesse yow religiouses,
> And bete you as the Bible telleth
> For brekynge of your rule;
> . . . . . .
> And thanne shall the abbot of Abyngdone,
> And al his issue for evere,
> Hav a knok of a kyng,
> And incurable the wounde."
> *Vision*, vv. 6239-63.

The Abbey was dissolved Feb. 9, 1538, when its yearly revenues amounted to £1,876 10*s.* 9*d.* (perhaps about £35,000 present value). Thomas Rowland or Pentecost, the last abbot, was among the earliest to acknowledge the King's Supremacy in 1534, and was rewarded for his ready surrender with the manor of Cumnor (Rte. 14).

Leland speaks warmly of the extent and magnificence of the conventual buildings, but little indeed is now left of them, all traces of the great Abbey Church (434 ft. long) having disappeared. The *Abbey Gateway*, adjoining St. Nicholas' Church on the S., is a fine Perp. building with a vaulted archway, over which is a modernised room known as the Fish-house, and used for masonic purposes. The remains of the Abbey are now in the hands of the Corporation, and exploration has of late brought to light much of interest. For over 200 years, from 1690 onwards, the buildings were used as malthouses and for kindred purposes. (Admission can be obtained at No. 2, The Abbey, a house immediately under the Abbey gate). The buildings as shown consist of (1) a two-storied house called the *Prior's House*, with fine buttresses of E.E. work, *c.* 1250. The ground floor is vaulted to a centre pillar in four bays with plain chamfered ribs, and has a small fireplace. It is called the kitchen, and was lighted by an E.E. window N., and a late Perp. window S. The upper story now consists of two rooms, of which the eastern was formerly subdivided. The W. room has the remains of a magnificent fireplace; the foliage on the capitals of the bracket shafts which carried the hood is very finely undercut. Outside is a remarkable chimney with three lancet openings, a well-known river-mark. Adjoining the so-called Prior's House (such names are more or less arbitrary) is (2) the *Guest House*, a long building of two stories now 102 × 21 ft., but once apparently a bay (10 ft.) longer. The bottom story had a gallery open on the N., like the present upper gallery, but the wall was built up for strength when the building became a warehouse. The bottom story seems to have been divided into eleven dormitories opening into the gallery, and the mortise-holes of the partition woodwork can be seen in the cross-

beams. At the E. end two cottages have been built in modern times, and the last dormitory bay pulled down. The windows, like those of the prior's house, look on the S. into the Abbey mill-stream. The upper floor was divided into two large rooms and five dormitories. The date of the building, with its fine plain upper roof, is *c.* 1400. On the N. are seen some broken windows built into the garden wall of a private house, and on the E. are traces of a small apsidal building which may have been the prior's chapel.

Adjoining the gatehouse is the police-court, said to have been a chapel of the Guild of St. John the Baptist (the Corporation transferred the site of St. John's Hospital to the Vineyard, where the present buildings were erected in 1801). Above in the *Little Council Chamber* are standard measures of Queen Elizabeth, and a print (1727) of the Town Hall, then called Ashhurst House. In the *Great Council Chamber* is a pseudo-Vandyke of St. Sebastian, portraits of George III. and Queen Charlotte by *Gainsborough*, and of Charles II. and James II. in Tilly's School. The Corporation plate is fine, and can be seen by permission of the Mayor.

S. of the council chambers is the courtyard of the old *Grammar School*, with the schoolroom bearing the inscription "Ingredere ut proficias," and a tablet recording its foundation by John Roysse, in 1563. The schoolroom is Jacobean, panelled, and is now used by volunteers. The school was rebuilt (1859) in the Park. One of the earliest pupils of the Grammar School was Thomas Tesdale, the founder of Pembroke Coll., Oxford. Other eminent natives of the place have been: St. Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury 1234–40; his brother, Robert Rich; and his two sainted sisters, Margaret and Alice, successively prioresses of Catesby (North Hants). But Abingdon's greatest worthy is perhaps Sir John Mason, whose father was a cowherd and his mother a sister of one of the Abbey monks. The monk sent him to Oxford, where he so pleased Henry VIII. by a graceful compliment paid him on his visit there in 1523, that the king took him to court and sent him to Paris to complete his education. In four succeeding reigns he rose to be Privy Councillor, Ambassador to France, and Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

Opposite Roysse's foundation is the *Church of St. Nicholas* (117½ × 28 ft.), much altered and restored, but still pleasing. Originally Norm. it is now mainly Perp. The tower, supported on stone interior legs, has a prominent high-shouldered staircase turret. In the porch is a stone lantern-holder, and in the chancel a Crucifixion (probably part of a Perp. reredos), built into the wall. There is a good painted desk-kneeler to John Blacknall and his wife, who both died Aug. 21, 1625, and on the altar-stone of his tomb his charity is still distributed. Here is also a small *brass* to one of the Bostocks.

Next to its Abbey, Abingdon owed much of its prosperity to its *Bridges*. Burford (or Borough-ford) Bridge, close to the town, was commenced in 1416, with stone given by Sir Peter Besils, of Besselsleigh. The men's wages, amounting to 1000 marks, were defrayed by Geoffrey Barbour, another Abingdon worthy; and he also had the fine causeway constructed connecting Burford Bridge with Culhamford Bridge, about half a mile E. In a curious picture preserved in Christ's Hospital (*post*), and given by Francis Little (1607), Barbour is represented giving John Stonehouse money for the building of the bridge, the construction of

which is going on in the background. In the hospital is also an early copy of some verses telling how—

"Kyng Herry the fyft, in his fourthe yere,
He hath i-founde for his folke a brige in Berkschire,
For cartis with cariage may goo and come clere,
That many wynters afore were mareed in the myre.

. . . . . .

"Now is Culham hithe [ferry] i-come to an ende,
And al the contre the beter and no man the worse.

. . . . . .

"Culham hithe hath caused many a curse.
I-blyssed be our helpers we have a better waye,
Withoute any peny for cart and for horse.

. . . . . .

"Another blissed besines is brigges to make
That there the pepul may not passe [away] after greet showres.
Dole it is to drawe a deed body oute of a lake,
That was fulled in a fount stoon [washed in the font], and a felow of oures."

In one of the windows of St. Helen's Church also long remained the distich:—

"Henricus Quartus quarto fundaverat anno
Rex pontem Burford super undas atque Culhamford."

The bridge was taken charge of by a Guild of the Holy Cross, a fraternity which existed here as early as the year 1389, when they are mentioned as maintaining a priest, and being governed by two proctors chosen annually. They were incorporated in 1442, and endowed with lands worth £40 per annum, to enable them to keep the road between Abingdon and Dorchester in repair, to maintain 13 poor men and women, and to provide a chaplain for St. Helen's; Sir John Golafre (*see* Fyfield, Rte. 14) and Thomas Chaucer, son of the poet (*see* Donnington, Rte. 7), were the trustees. The Guild was dissolved by Henry VIII., but was refounded May 18, 1553, by Sir John Mason. It received a charter from Edward VI. under the name of Christ's Hospital.

St. Helen's (105 × 86½ ft.), near the river, is a noble *Church*, with five aisles beside the tower-space (19½ ft.). It has been much "restored," but Abingdonians, proud of the place, have given munificently to its decoration, and the general effect, with its great breadth and much painted glass, is very fine. It is practically Perp. throughout, though the tower is E.E. The graceful Perp. spire, with delicate flying-buttresses at the corners, is a familiar object from the river. The porch adjoining the tower on the W. is good Perp.; the parvise is used as a muniment-room by Christ's Hospital, and is called the Old Exchequer. The aisles, counting from the l. or N. side, are known as (1) Jesus' Aisle, (2) Our Lady's, (3) St. Helen's, (4) St. Catharine's, (5) Holy Cross. The multiplication of aisles is due here, as elsewhere, to the Town Guilds. The porches, doorways, and corbels should be studied throughout: Holy Cross aisle has the date 1539 on the corbels. There is a Jacobean pulpit and font-cover, both bearing date 1634, but the scroll-work on the cover is earlier. Notice the fine Perp. roof at the E. end of Our Lady's aisle. In the Jesus aisle is a *brass* demi-effigy to Geoffrey Barbour (see *ante*), a great Abingdon merchant, once Mayor of Bristol. He died 1417, and his remains were moved here from the Abbey and reinterred with great pomp. Here is also a monument to Richard Curtaine, 1643:

"Our Curtaine in this lower press
Rests folded up in Natur's dress:
His dust perfumes this urn, and he
This towne with liberalitie."

In Our Lady's aisle is the altar-tomb of John Roysse (1571), the founder of the Grammar School: from the upper slab, brought from

his garden in London, the bread of his charity used until recently to be distributed every Sunday to 12 poor persons. In Holy Cross aisle is a curious painted tablet and portrait, with genealogical tree, to William Lee (1637), stating that he had in his lifetime issue from his loins 200 lacking but three. Here also is a *Brass* to W. Heyward (1501), a former vicar, and there are brass tablets to Thomas Mayott (1627), Robert Payne (1627), and Tobias Garbrand (1688). The church has a fine peal of 10 bells.

Close to St. Helen's is the picturesque *Christ's Hospital* (see *ante*, under account of Bridges). It is a long, low building of wood and brick, rough-cast, with an open gallery running the whole length. The council-chamber, also used for prayers, has a stone-mullioned window and panelled walls. It has the arms of benefactors in painted glass in the windows, a lantern and leaded cupola with elaborate vane, a good Elizabethan table, and a series of fire-buckets, two given by each governor elected down to 1850. Round the walls are portraits of benefactors (King Edward VI., Sir John Mason, Sir Peter Besils, Thomas Tesdale and others), including the curious picture of Geoffrey Barbour (see *ante*). On the wall hangs an early copy, on vellum mounted on board, painted and illuminated, of the verses quoted above. The charity maintains 38 inmates. To the N.E. of the old buildings, and looking on to the river, is a more modern portion (1797), and N.W. is Twitty's Hospital, built in 1707. These buildings form a sort of close W. of the church.

In the market-place at Abingdon is the *Town Hall* (1677), standing on an undercroft, and said to be designed by Inigo Jones. On this site once stood the famous Abingdon Cross, from which the cross at Coventry is reputed to have been copied. Richard Symons, the soldier-antiquarian of the Civil War, describes it as octagonal, with three rows of statues, the whole ornamented with coats of arms carved and painted. It was razed to the ground by Waller, May 31, 1644. Abingdon was garrisoned for the King at the commencement of the Civil War, and it was for a considerable time the head-quarters of his horse. He paid it a visit with his queen and family, April 17th, 1644. In May of the same year a council of war was held here, soon after which the garrison quitted the place on the approach of the Earl of Essex, who plundered the town and fortified it for the Parliament. Various attempts which the Royalists afterwards made to recover it were all unsuccessful, though Prince Rupert contrived at one time to regain possession of the Abbey and to place 500 men there. The Parliamentary garrison practised the plan of hanging all Irish prisoners without a trial, to such an extent that "Abingdon law" became for a time proverbial.

Abingdon is now supplied with water from Wootton, but memorials of the earlier system may be seen in the "well-house" in Ock Street (1673), and the old Conduit House, removed to the Park. The old "Vineyard" is now the site of the town gas-works.

Fitzharris House, successively inhabited by the Bostocks and Tesdales, is now modernised, but contains two panelled rooms with good mantelpieces.

From Abingdon to Oxford it is $6\frac{1}{2}$ m. by the W. or main road, and about a mile more if the E. or riverside road is taken.

On the W. road are Sunningwell, Bayworth, South Hinksey, and North Hinksey.

22 m. Half a mile W. of the road is the pretty village of **Sunningwell**, so called from the stream which runs through it, where "a gospel used to be read to bless the springs on procession days as late as 1688."—*Aubrey.* The small cruciform *Church* (restored), mainly Perp., is entered by an octagonal Elizabethan W. porch, said to have been built by Bishop Jewell, author of the "Apology," who was rector here *c.* 1550. The church contains an Elizabethan pulpit, and a fine series of poppy-heads. There are monuments to the Baskerville family (see *Bayworth*); and here was buried Samuel Fell, Dean of Christ Church and rector of this place, who died of grief on hearing of the execution of Charles I., Feb. 2, 1649. From the tower of this church it is said that Roger Bacon used to make his astronomical observations. Hearne mentions that on Shrove Tuesday children used to go round the village singing:—

"Beef and bacon's out of season;
I want a pan to parch my peas on"—

after which they threw stones at all people's doors.

In the churchyard is a fine yew.

½ m. N. of Sunningwell is the hamlet of **Bayworth**, where, in the 17th cent., lived the family of Baskerville. Thomas, son of Hannibal Baskerville, kept a journal of his travels about England in 1677–8; the MS. is now in the British Museum. It was to Bayworth that Antony Wood, the antiquary, took his last walk, in the hope of shaking off that chill which was the cause of his death. He first saw Bayworth in 1659, when he was 27, and describes it in a strain of romance entirely unusual for him:—

"In this Lent, but the day when I cannot tell, A. W. went as a stranger with Thomas Smith, Master of Arts (ejected his clerkship of Magd: Coll. by the Visitors 1648) but now living obscurely in Oxon, I say he went with the said Smith on a certaine morning to a private and lone house, in or neare Bagley Wood, between Oxon and Abendon, inhabited by the Lord of Sunningwell called Hannibal Baskervyle esq. The house called Bayworth is an old house, situated in a romancey place, and a man that is given to devotion and learning cannot find out a better place. In this house A. W. found a pretty oratory or chapel up one paire of staires, well furnish'd with velvet cusheons and carpets. There had been painted windows in it but defaced by Abendon soldiers, rebels in the grand rebellion. He also found there an excellent organ in the said oratory, on which M^r^ Smith performed the part of a good musitian, and sang to it. M^r^ Baskervyle was well acquainted with him, and took delight to heare him play and sing. He was civil to them but A. W. found him to be a melancholy and retir'd man; and upon further enquiry of the person he was told that he gave the third or fourth part of his estate to the poor. He was so great a cherisher of wandering beggars, that he built for them a large place like a barne to receive them, and hung up a little bell at his back doore for them to ring when they wanted anything. He had been several times indicted at Abendon Sessions for harbouring beggars. In his younger dayes while he was a student in Brasenose Coll: he would frequent the house of his kinswoman the Lady Scudamore opposite to Merton Coll. church: at which time the mother of A. W. being a girle and a sojournour in his father's house neare to it, he became acquainted with her: and when he knew that A. W. was her son he was civil to him. And A. W. afterwards frequented the house, especially in the time of his son Thomas Baskervyle, to refresh his mind with a melancholy walke and with the retiredness of the place, as also with the shady box-arbours in the garden."

22½ m. The road enters *Bagley Wood* at the spot mentioned by Hearne. "One Blake hung upon an oak in the way to Abingdon, beyond the half-way gate. This traitor betrayed three Christian kings, and would have betrayed the fourth; upon which he was hanged, within two days after his design was discovered, upon the said oak, which is still called 'Blake's Oak.'" The wood was formerly a haunt of robbers, and here St. Edward of Abingdon was once attacked by them, but his protestations of

poverty being found to be true, he was allowed to proceed unharmed. An unlucky Franciscan, Brother Walter, who there fell among thieves, hardly escaped with his life, his captors pretending to disbelieve that he could belong to the order, as he wore shoes, which the rule did not allow him to do. Bagley Wood, which belongs to St. John's College, was once a favourite walk with the students, but it is now strictly shut up, and only mere glimpses of its pleasant flower-clad glades can be had from the dusty road. One who used to delight to roam at liberty in it (Dr. Arnold) says, "Some of my most delightful remembrances of Oxford and its neighbourhood are connected with the scenery of the late autumn: Bagley Wood in its golden decline, and the green of the meadows reviving for a while under the influence of a Martinmas summer, and then fading finally off into its winter brown." From the top of the hill at the end of the wood is a splendid view of Oxford—its spires, towers, and groves rising in the midst of the green valley.

24 m. On the l. of the road are the Hinkseys (formerly Hengestesige). **South Hinksey** has a small *Church* with a modern chancel and a massive W. Perp. tower. There is a plain E.E. font, and on the S. wall of the nave a singular very small double piscina (Dec.) Just beyond the village is the entrance of the so-called *Happy Valley*, a pretty walk emerging on the hill near Sunningwell; one of the "little valleys that debouche on the valley of the Thames behind the Hinkseys," beloved by Dr. Arnold. From the hill between the Hinkseys Turner took his view of Oxford.

1¼ m. N., and reached by a pleasant path across the fields, is **North** or **Ferry Hinksey**. The little village nestles in foliage most picturesquely under the rising ground, and the Inn gardens by the waterside are a favourite spot for Oxford citizens' tea-parties in summer. The *Church* is small and plain, originally Norm., having a very low and massive W. tower with a conical roof. There is a good Norm. S. door, and on the S. wall are two plain aumbries and a Dec. piscina. The chancel arch is modern pseudo-Norm., and the rood-stairs are carried in a bulge on the N.; on the N. and S. are *low-side windows*. In the church are many monuments to the Finmores of Kidlington, a branch of whom lived in the Manor-house here. One monument with a curious inscription beginning, "Reader, look to thy feet, honest and loyal men are sleeping under them," records how William Finmore, Fellow of St. John's, "when loyalty and y^e^ church fainted in 1646, lay down and died." Here, also, is the tomb of Thomas Willis (father of Dr. Willis), who died in the Royal cause during the siege of Oxford, August 1643. In the churchyard is a good Dec. *cross* raised on steps, and perfect save the head. In the hill-fields above the village is the source of the Conduit built by Otho Nicholson of Ch. Ch. in 1617 to supply Carfax with water.

On the riverside road from Abingdon to Oxford are the villages of Radley and Kennington.

Radley (*junction stat. for Abingdon*), a pretty village, was once a manor of the Abbots of Abingdon. After the Dissolution it was purchased by George Stonehouse, one of the clerks of the board of Green Cloth *temp*, Elizabeth. The Stonehouses held it till *c.* 1790, when it passed to the Bowyer family of Denham, Bucks, who still possess it. A red-brick Queen Anne house took the

place of the older Stonehouse mansion (of which some few traces still remain), and this has been incorporated with the buildings of Radley College, to the trustees of which it is leased by the Bowyers. *Radley College* is a small but recherché public school on professedly orthodox lines, opened 1847. Its buildings lie hidden among trees in the pleasant old park of the Stonehouses. It has the usual paraphernalia of a school—dormitories, classrooms, studies, gymnasium, etc., also a *chapel* fitted up with stained glass, and much oak carving ancient and modern. From the proximity of the Thames the boys have unusual boating facilities.

The *Church* is mostly Perp., but has been very much altered and restored; the chancel seems to have been rebuilt, *c.* 1635, by Elizabeth, wife of Wm. Stonehouse. The interior effect is good, and there is painted glass, and much elaborate oak carving collected from various sources and given by the late Sir Geo. Bowyer. The stalls and miserere seats were also his gift. The font is good late Norm. with restored supporting shafts. An inscription shows that John Radcliffe, a former vicar, found it in the village and replaced it 1840. On the S. of the chancel is a very fine altar-tomb to Wm. Stonehouse, d. 1631, and Elizabeth his wife and their children, with painted alabaster effigies; the interesting Latin inscription is by *Gill*, master of St. Paul's school, and Milton's friend. On the S. side in the churchyard is seen the great turfed vault of the Stonehouses and Bowyers.

Kennington has a small ivy-covered *Church*, rebuilt 1828.

26 m. OXFORD.

ROUTE 11.

NEWBURY TO LAMBOURN.

(By Boxford and East Garston.)

12½ miles.

Boxford, Winterbourn, Welford, Wickham, The Sheffords, East Garston, Lambourn.

By road, or by the recently opened Lambourn Valley Light Railway, which runs on its own metals into Newbury Station, G.W.R. The stations or stopping-places are Speen, Stockcross, Boxford, Welford Park, West Shefford, East Garston, and Eastbury, with a depôt at Lambourn. The line is 12½ miles long, and has the pretty "troutful stream," Lambourn, almost constantly in sight. The road runs parallel with the river and the railway. The surface is generally muddy in wet weather, but at other times it is tolerably good. There are occasional hills, but the gradients are slight. The villages lie mostly on the road. This route is very picturesque.

4 m. **Boxford** (*stat.*). On the slope of the highlands, seen on the right, extensive remains of Roman villas have been discovered; and the parish is intersected both by a Roman vicinal way which leaves the great highway from Londinium to Glevum (Gloucester) at Wickham Heath, and proceeds by High Street Lane to Winterbourn and so on to W. Bussock; and also by the Roman road from Spinæ (Speen) to Wantage, which

can be traced as a bridle-path for many miles from Bagnor by Wyfield to Brightwalton Holt, where it falls into the present highway to Wantage. Local tradition still recalls incidents of the military operations which took place in the neighbourhood in the civil war.

The *Church* (80 × 39½ ft.) is plain Perp. with modern N. aisle, and ivy-clad W. tower. There is a high Jacobean pulpit (with sounding board) carved with initials and date 1618. In the chancel is a fine clunch monument (1672) gilt and coloured, to James Anderton, a former rector, "*et orthodoxæ fidei, vel inter rebelles, acerrimus Propugnator.*" In the register is an entry of the "Rebells" burning the chancel rails "in Oliverian Rump times, when subjects rebelled and did what seemed right in their own eyes."

The trout fishing in the stream here is considered very fine, and every accommodation is provided for anglers at the *Bell*, a good hostelry near the station. On the right, after leaving the station, is *Borough Hill Camp*, a prehistoric earthwork from which is obtained one of the characteristic Berkshire views.

2 m. E. of Boxford is the sequestered village of **Winterbourn.** The *Church* (75 × 40 ft.) is a chapelry of Chieveley, and has been practically rebuilt, but a good three-light Dec. window has been preserved. The tower is brick, 1739.

6 m. **Welford** (*stat.*), a pretty village with many fine trees. *Welford House* is a fine red-brick mansion (Col. G. B. Archer-Houblon), beautifully situated in one of the few ancient deer-parks (200 acres) of the county.

The *Church* is modern, in the gothic of 1852. Tower and spire were rebuilt on the old lines, the latter unfortunately with a slight twist. The tower is of flint, and round at bottom (cf. West Shefford). A low oct. story supports a small E.E. spire oct. and ribbed, and the treatment of the larger E.E. windows, which are taken through both round and oct. part of tower, is curious. A fine Trans. font and E.E. sedilia have been preserved. There are *Brasses* to John Young and John Westlake (1420); a good Elizabethan desk-kneeler to Lady Parry, and a curious monument to Elizabeth Mundy, 1689. In the churchyard is the shaft of a cross.

1½ m. S.W. of Welford is **Wickham,** a chapelry of Welford. The architectural revival of the late '40's has run riot in the *Church* and very large Rectory House which adjoins it. Both are of the most approved "wedding-cake" Gothic. The church was entirely rebuilt in 1847, but the very early tower was spared, though tampered with. Notice the quasi long-and-short work, and the rude Norm. windows; two with mid-wall balusters, three others single-light with outside and inside splay. On the lawn, and in the conservatories of the Rectory House, are many remains of good stonework taken from the old churches of Welford and Wickham at the time of their wanton destruction.

8 m. Shortly after leaving Welford Park, the pretty village of **Little** or **East Shefford** is reached, with its disused church across the stream E., standing solitary in a green spot shaded by old trees.

Tradition says that Hugo King of the Mercians had here a palace, and points to the traces of a dyke which can still be seen as the boundary of his kingdom. In making the railway cutting in 1890, an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was discovered, and many skeletons disinterred. Valuable finds of amber-

coloured and other glass drinking vessels, enamelled fibulæ, amulets, beads, rings, swords, and spear-heads, were sent for the most part to the British Museum. Mr. Money, F.S.A., contends for the identity of this place with the Sifford or Shifford referred to in King Alfred's Proverbs, given at Shifford, A.D. 890, commencing: "At Shifford sat Thanes many." The Hundred Gemot was held here as late as the last century, and it is possible that the proverbs were spoken at a district assembly at Shefford, within so short a distance of Alfred's demesne of Lambourn. Here was an ancient (*c.* 1450) moated manor-house, of a branch of the great Berks and Oxon family of Fettiplace, whose shield (gules, 2 chevronels argent) is still seen in the church. The remains of this house, with a fine hall, Perp. windows, heraldic glass, and magnificent oak roof, were wantonly pulled down in 1870.

The *Church* (56 × 20½ ft.) is disused and neglected. The windows are poor Perp., and it is probable that it was largely rebuilt by the Fettiplaces, *c.* 1500; but on the N. is a Trans. blocked window, and a very small rood-stair window. On the S. is a fine altar-tomb with effigies of Sir Thos. Fettiplace and Beatrix his wife, *c.* 1450. She was the widow of Gilbert Lord Talbot, and by birth a noble Portuguese. Great confusion has arisen between her and Beatrix, the illegitimate daughter (afterwards successively Lady Arundel and Huntingdon) of John, 1st King of Portugal, by Donna Perez; and it is still hardly certain that they were not identical. In any case Beatrix Fettiplace quartered the royal arms of Portugal; and the five blue shields of the Portuguese royal house were to be seen in 1870, among the painted glass of Shefford Manor. On the N. is a fine Perp. Purbeck marble recessed and canopied altar-tomb, with *brasses* to John and Dorothy Fettiplace, 1524. At the W. end is a massive 12th-cent. Caen stone coffin lid, bearing a triple cross. It was dug up in the churchyard 1888, and covered an oak coffin containing the skeleton of an ecclesiastic with pewter funeral chalice and paten.

A new church was built in 1880 near the rectory. In it is some beautiful 15th-cent. glass from the old church, representing a vested bishop, and an Annunciation with the Virgin Mary *seated*. In the rectory is a good 15th-cent. *bassinet à bavière*, which once hung in the chancel of the old church.

John Prince, the puritan divine, was appointed rector of East Shefford 1619. He was afterwards the founder of Princeton College, New Jersey, and from his loins sprung a "long line of descendants whose names are among the most honoured in the annals of New England."

9 m. ✠ **Great** or **West Shefford** (*stat.*). An avenue of limes leads to the *Church*, recklessly restored. It seems to have been originally Trans. Norm., and the remains of two Trans. single lights can be traced at the E. end. There is a sculptured N. font, a good Trans. S. door, and a plain E.E. N. door. At the W. is a tower circular and Trans. at the bottom, with an oct. Perp. upper story. Round towers are exceedingly rare in England; and the adoption of a circular form here and at the neighbouring church of Wickham, has been attributed to the dearth of stone in the district for the purpose of making quoins. A narrow buttress rood stair on the N. was destroyed at the "restoration," and the building has otherwise been much modernised. Here is a pewter alms-dish, used also as a paten, which bears inscriptions:

"What have we that we have not received of the Lord?" and "The gifte of Thomas Harvye in Ano Do 1621, March 31."

Close to the church is the Manor Farm, with some old brickwork at the back, and a hiding-hole. Charles I. passed the night of Nov. 19, 1644, at West Shefford Manor-house, where he was entertained by that staunch old Cavalier Mr. George Browne, whose three sons fell in the service of the king.

This village and also East Garston are very picturesque.

10 m. **East Garston** (*stat.*) called commonly "Argason," has a large flint cruciform *Church* (93½ × 53 ft.), originally Trans. Norm., but now largely rebuilt and robbed of all interest. The N. Chancel Chapel (rebuilt) is known as the Seymour Chapel, from the Seymour family who resided at Inholmes close by. The old chancel was pulled down in 1875, and at the "complete restoration" of 1882 many sculptured stones found during the new work were built into the outside walls. The S. door is Trans. Norm., and there is a Jacobean pulpit. The manor of East Garston was held by the terms of finding a knight to serve the king for 40 days, whenever he should be at Kidwelly (in S. Wales), of which manor East Garston was a member. The Manor of Bockhampton close by was held by keeping a pack of harriers for the King's use; but the knight was to be paid, and the dogs fed at the Royal charge.

10½ m. is the hamlet of **Eastbury**, with a market cross indicating that it was once of more importance than it is at present. Here are a modern *Church*, built by Bp. Milman (*vide* Lambourn), and an old manor-house of the Fitzwarrens, whose chief seat was at Wantage.

12½ m. ✠ **LAMBOURN** lies at the head of the Lambourn Valley, on the S. fringe of the downs, shut in by hills on every side except towards Shefford, and surrounded by trees. It is a bright little place, once difficult of access, but now the terminus of the Lambourn Valley light railway. The parish is the largest (14,860 acres) in the county, and has a scattered population. Here was formerly a frequented market (hence its old name Chipping Lambourn), but this has long been given up, and Lambourn owes its present vitality to the training of race-horses. As a training centre it is ranked second only to Newmarket, and has seven large stables in the immediate neighbourhood. The sport of coursing is much practised on the adjacent downs, and the trout fishing in the Lambourn stream is renowned, but strictly preserved. The stream rises in the plantations of Lambourn Place, and the trout are paler than those of the Kennet. The fishing between Shefford and Newbury is esteemed the best.

Lambourn was a possession of King Alfred, who left it by will to his Queen. After the conquest it was granted to the Fitzwarrens. It was divided into several manors, one of which was held, *temp.* Henry III., by the great Justiciary Henry de Bath, passed from him to the Bohuns, and was by Henry VIII. sold to Sir Wm. Essex, under-treasurer of the Exchequer, whose son, Sir Thomas, is buried in the church. Charles I. was at Lambourn soon after the battle of Newbury.

The *Church* is a fine cruciform building (126 × 83 ft.), originally Trans. Norm., but mangled by "restorations" of which the worst took place in 1850 and 1861. The W. front, with a mediocre Dec. window, has a circular Norm. window in the gable, and shows traces of Norm.

single lights at the sides. The nave arcades are late Norm. of wide arches (capitals restored 1850). The S. porch has a priest's room above it, with the chimney carried up into a Dec. finial. A "neat iron spiral stair" takes the place of the exterior parvise staircase which restorers have blocked. On the E. wall of nave, S. of the chancel arch, and 13½ ft. from floor, is the piscina ("restored in plaster"), of a rood-loft altar. Similar piscinæ occur at Deddington (Oxon), and Blewbury (Berks), but are very rare. The 4 arches which carry the tower are fine Trans. Norm. restored, but the corbelled inner shaft has a weak effect. The upper story added to the tower in Perp. times proved too much for the foundations, and settlements have given constant trouble ever since.

In the chancel the E. window is of 5 lights, good Perp. with modern glass commemorating Bp. Milman, 11 years vicar of Lambourn. On the N. of the chancel is a late Perp. chapel (rebuilt *a fundamentis* 1850), known as S. Katherine's or Essex chapel. It occupies the site of a Dec. chapel, and contains the fine alabaster tomb and effigies of Sir Thos. and Margaret Essex, 1558. In a window here is some painted glass dated 1534, once in the Trinity chapel, and rebought for the church at the Lambourn Place sale, 1893. On a monument to Ed. Seymour, 1798, are some verses by Pye, the Laureate (*vide* Faringdon). On the S. of the chancel is a Dec, chantry (S. Mary's), to John Estbury. *c.* 1370; and S. of this is the chapel of the Holy Trinity, built by another John Estbury, *c.* 1500. He also founded the Almshouses, and in this chapel is his altar-tomb and *Brass* 1508. A label issuing from the mouth bears the ejaculation *Pater de cœlis Deus miserere nobis*, and its shape has given rise to the local tradition that Estbury was killed by a worm dropping into his mouth while he slept in an arbour. The ancient sporting proclivities of Lambourn are shown in the dogs hunting a hare on the border of the *brass*; and similar subjects boldly carved in the mouldings of the arch between the S. transept and St. Mary's chapel should be carefully noted. Round John Estbury's tomb the old men of the almshouses he founded gather every day. The intercessory prayer they use (revised after the Dissolution) may be read in a glazed frame, and the service is a rare survival of the old system of bedesmen. Restorations have introduced Norm. windows, Norm. pulpit, Norm. font, Norm. gallery leading to tower, and a sham stoup, and have done away with the fine old roofs and many brasses and monuments. The old font (17th-cent.) is now said to be a flower-pot in a garden near Marlborough. There is a *Brass* in the N. transept, where an inscription to Roger Garrard, 1631, has been attached in recent repairs to some 16th-cent. figures and 15th-cent. evangelistic symbols. There are some monuments left to the loyal family of Garrard, of Lambourn, to a branch of Fettiplaces who lived at Rooksnest in Lambourn Woodlands, and to the Seymours of Inholmes. On the S. wall has been placed an alabaster medallion representing Religion and Justice crowning the head of Charles I., with 2 puritans in chains underneath. It was purchased at the Lambourn Place sale, 1893, and is said to be one of 30 made in 1649, of which only 3 are now in England.

On the S. side of the church is the pleasant house now used as the Vicarage. One Smith, a former vicar, wrote to his bishop (Bristol) in 1780, about the decay of the then Vicarage, and begged other preferment. "You should enquire," says his Father-in-God in reply,

"what Crown livings there are in your neighbourhood, and what is the state of health of the incumbents: other creatures beside undertakers and birds of prey watch for dead corpses."

On the N. of the church are the Estbury Almshouses, entirely rebuilt, and Lambourn Place (Col. E. Ward) a modern Elizabethan house. It is near the traditional site of Alfred's Palace, and has succeeded to an old house of Sir Wm. Essex. Joshua Sylvester, the poet, and translator of "Du Bartas," long resided in the old house in the service of the Essex family. Though now little read, he is justly termed by Southey "the silver-tongued Sylvester," and his poems abound in pleasing local allusions.

"Let me, good Lord, among the great unkenn'd,
My rest of days in the calm country end:
Let me deserve of my dear eagle brood
For Windsor Forest walks in Alme's wood:
Be Hadley pond my sea; Lamb's-bourn my Thames;
Lamborne my London; Kennet's silver streams
My fruitful Nile: my singers and musicians
The pleasant birds with warbling repetitions;
My company, pure thoughts, to work Thy will;
My court a cottage on a lowly hill,
Where, without let, I may so sing Thy name,
That times to come may wonder at the same."

Sylvester's "Du Bartas," p. 30.

The poet's wish to end his days at Lambourn was not fulfilled: he became secretary to a company of London traders, and died in their service at Middleburg, in Holland, Sept. 28th, 1618, aged 55.

In 1607 a Mr. Bush "made a Pynace in which he past by Ayre, Land and Water" from the top of Lambourn Church tower to "Custome-house Key in London." A rare Pamphlet shows the intrepid Bush starting. The pinnace descended from the tower on two cables drawn tight from the battlements to some trees in the churchyard, and the strain brought down two of the pinnacles. Bush, however, reached the ground safely, put his pinnace on a sort of tricycle frame, wound it along to Streatley, and, though the bargees there damaged the craft, he paddled triumphantly down the Thames to London.

Just outside the churchyard is a market cross, with a restored head.

2 m. N. are the *Seven Barrows*. This name is due to the fact that, of the numerous tumuli in this neighbourhood, seven are in closer proximity than the rest. They were opened in 1850.

From Lambourn a rough road leads over the downs past Upper Lambourn, Ashdown Park, and Ashbury, to Shrivenham (7 m.).

ROUTE 12.

HUNGERFORD TO ABINGDON.

(By Wantage.)

23 miles.

Hungerford, Chaddleworth, Poughley, Bright Waltham, Farnborough, The Fawleys, Wantage, W. Hanney.

Except that the road is apt to get sandy and flinty in dry weather, the surface is fair as far as the top of the downs, 2 m. S. of Wantage. There is also an upward tendency, more or less pronounced, to this point. Here is a steep descent, and after that the surface is good, and the country almost flat. The road is bleak and uninteresting, and is unenclosed for the most part, but gives a good idea of the down-country, and has a magnificent view over the Vale of the White Horse.

HUNGERFORD (*stat.*). A clean little town, with historic associations, but now possessing little of interest. Its long high street (crossed by the G.W.R. and the Kennet and Avon Canal) curves down the hill, and at the bottom joins the Bath road, which does not enter the town, but skirts it on the north. It was formerly called Ingleford Charnham, or Charnham Street, and the latter title is now applied to one of the avenues to the town. Hungerford cherishes the memory of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, who gave the manor (previously royal) with its rights of common meadow-pasture and fishing, to the inhabitants. Twelve of them, called Feoffees, with a Constable, hold a court at Hock-tide as Lords of the Manor. In the modern town-hall is preserved an ancient horn, said to have been given by John of Gaunt. A later (1634) imitation of it is blown to summon the Hock-tide Court, etc., and bears the inscription, "John a Gaun did give and grant the riall (royalty) of fishing to Hungerford toune from Eldren stub to Irish Stil, excepting som several mil pound. Jehosphat Lucas was cunstabl." John Lucas, the Constable's brother, being condemned for complicity in the Royalist rising at Salisbury, 1655, "deported himself on the scaffold with singular confidence and steadfastness."

The fishing given by John of Gaunt is still extremely valuable (though its limits are now curtailed to seven miles), and besides furnishing sport to the commoners, is leased to a fishing club at a heavy rent. The town, watered by the Kennet, the Kennet-and-Avon Canal, and the little streams Avon and Dun, has long been a favourite resort for the angler, and is spoken of by Evelyn as "famous for its troutes." The *Bear*, at the bottom of the town, was the headquarters of Charles I. in November 1644, and in the same inn William Prince of Orange received James II.'s Commissioners, Lords Halifax, Nottingham, and Godolphin, in December 1688.

A fine avenue of lofty elms leads to the *Church*, pleasantly situated in meadows by the canal. The old Perp. church (of which there is a view in "The Beauties of England and Wales") becoming ruinous, was pulled down; a new one was built in the Gothic of 1814, since changed to that of 1880 It retains

a cross-legged effigy of Sir Robert de Hungerford, *c.* 1340, and the Norm. French inscription promising 550 days' pardon to such as pray for his soul.

Hungerford Park was the residence of the Barons Hungerford till the 16th cent., when it reverted to the Crown, and was granted by Elizabeth to Essex. A new house was built for Essex, and some remains of it are incorporated in the existing modern mansion.

5 m. W. SHEFFORD (*see* Rte. 11).

7 m. Two miles beyond W. Shefford is a turning on the right, leading to the villages of Chaddleworth, Bright Waltham, and Farnborough. They are respectively 1½, 3½, and 3½ m. from the turn.

Chaddleworth. The *Church* was originally late Norm., but the old chancel has been incorporated in the nave, and an incongruous new chancel built. The oblong tower is late Norm., with Perp. upper storey; on the E. side of it is a sanctus-bell niche; the tower-arch is Perp. ogee on Norm. jambs. The S. door is rich Norm., and inside it is a plain Norm. stoup. On the N. of the nave are two curious pew-chapels: one (with fireplace) of the Wroughtons, of Chaddleworth, *c.* 1780, the other of the Blandys of Oatcash, *c.* 1710. There is the stump of a churchyard cross. The registers date from 1538. In the burials a note has been added to Thomas Nelson, Nov. 8th, 1644: "This was that Thomas Nelson that fought two dragoons in Hangman Stone Lane (*v. Leckhampstead*), in the time of the Civil Wars, and was never well afterwards." Another entry records the planting (Feb. 20th, 1694) of a yew (not now to be identified) in the churchyard, by Hugh Pocock, then vicar.

A custom for the recovery of freebench prevailed at Chaddleworth, as at Enborne, by which, if the widow of a copyholder was guilty of incontinency, she forfeited her life-interest in her husband's copyhold; which could only be recovered by her riding into court on a black ram, repeating a ludicrous petition in rhyme.

At *Woolley Park* (P. Wroughton, Esq.), in this parish, is a fine deer-park of 116 acres.

At the S.E. corner of the parish, in a retired situation among woods, is the farmhouse of *Ellensfordmere* (dated 1613), which marks the site of **Pochele** or **Poughley Priory.** The abbey was founded by Ralph de Chaddleworth, 1160, for Augustinian canons, and was one of the 22 smaller houses suppressed by Wolsey for the endowment of "Cardinal College," at Oxford. It was surrendered Feb. 14th, 1524, by John Somer, last prior, and was then valued at £71. 10*s.* 7*d.* The existing remains, attributed to kitchen and dormitories, are quite unimportant. A Dec. window, however, is still to be seen, and the figure of a monk, built into the wall, while in the entrance hall of Prior's Court (near Chieveley) are preserved some fragments of 14th-cent. glass which came from Poughley. In filling up the fishpond, in 1796, the stone coffin-lid of Hieronimus Robertus, "first prior" (1160) was found, and is now preserved in the chapel of East Hendred House (*q.v.*)

Brightwalton (or **Brightwaltham**) commonly called Brickleton, has a modern *Church*, but retains a Norm. font and a *Brass* to John Newman, 1517, which survive from an interesting E. E. church pulled down by Street, 1863.

Farnborough, a small village, with many fine trees, lies very high, and commands extensive

views of the downs. The *Church* (82 × 19 ft.), originally Norm., has been much "restored." Two Norm. windows and a door have been opened on the N., a new chancel arch inserted, and an E.E. pillar-piscina, found in the wall, has been placed in the chancel. The low, but good, late Perp. W. tower is said to have been built with stone from the ruins of Poughley Abbey (*q.v.*). There is the base of a churchyard cross.

8 m. Half a mile to the E. are Watcombe, South or Little Fawley, and North or Great Fawley (combined pop. *c.* 170).

In **Watcombe Farm** are incorporated some vestiges (Norm. corbel figures) of the old *Church* of Watcombe. In the garden are fine yew and box hedges, and in the meadow in front can be traced foundations of houses of the vanished village of Watcombe. Watcombe church was in 1507 appropriated to the Trinity chantry of Lambourn, and when it fell into disrepair, *c.* 1560, its bells were filched, it is said, for East Garston church, and recast to conceal their identity. Where the road to Watcombe leaves the main road is a striking group of yews called *Paradise*, the remains of another old garden. Two big trees are known as "Adam and Eve," and a third one, which must have been immense, but is now mutilated, as the "Serpent."

At **Little** or **South Fawley**, the old Berks family of Moore (of which the most famous was the lawyer, Sir Francis Moore, born 1558), had their seat. A fine but ruined avenue of elms leads to the remains of the Elizabethan House, built *c.* 1600. Three gables with embattled parapets are left, and it is still used as a farmhouse. There are a good Renaissance porch, some panelled rooms with elaborate carving, a pretty fireplace, and an excellent square staircase. On a window-pane in one of the bedrooms is scratched "D^{r}. Molly Moore, C^{hng} Nelly Moore, P$^{r—y}$ Anastasia Moore," the contractions probably standing for "Dear," "Charming," and "Pretty"; the fair ladies were Mary, Helena, and Anastasia, three of the daughters (all died unmarried) of Anastasia, wife of Sir Rich^{d}. Moore, who died 1737. On another pane is "This life's no life," and both inscriptions seem to be the handiwork of the same passionate swain. The forecourt, terraced walk, and bowling-green, can be distinctly traced The remains of a stone-coped ivy-covered wall surround the neglected Park, in which are overgrown fish-ponds. Close by is the wellhouse, with a well 200 ft. deep; it was worked by a horse-wheel as at Grey's Court, Patcham, and Carisbrooke. There is also a village well. The Moores became extinct by the death of Sir Thomas, 6th Baronet, 1807; and the church of Fawley, which covered their great vault, was pulled down in 1866.

At **Great** or **North Fawley** is a modern *Church*, and another deep village well.

11½ m. At this point, 730 ft. above the sea level, after crossing the green track of the Ridgeway, is a commanding *view* over the Vale of the White Horse. Immediately on the left are the trenches of Letcombe Camp (Route 9), and farther along the ridge will be seen the inward trend of the Punch Bowl. N.W. are Faringdon Clump (Route 14) (10 m.), Badbury Hill, and Coleshill. N.N.E., and straight along the line of the road, is Cumnor Hurst (14 m.), a curious bare hill with a small clump on the top. 12 m. E.N.E. are the Wittenham Clumps (Route 6).

13½ m. **Wantage.** The G.W.R. *stat.* (Wantage Road), 2½ m. N., is connected with the town by a steam tramway.

✠ **WANTAGE** "the Capital of the Vale of the White Horse, the seat of the West-Saxon Kings, and the Birthplace of Alfred," is now a thriving market town, rather overweighted with the "Alfred" tradition, to live up to which it struggles nobly. The statue of the King (by Count Gleichen) which stands in the market-place was given by the late Lord Wantage in 1877. Capt. Symonds, who was at Wantage with the Royalists in 1644, in making notes on the church, mentions that the site of the "Palace" where Alfred was born (Oct. 25, 849), was afterwards occupied by the Manor-house of the Fitzwarrens. The place is now unidentifiable. ¼ m. W. of the town, in an ill-kept dingle, is a spring called *Alfred's well*, and a bricked cavity called *Alfred's bath*; neither has much interest.

Wantage besides being an agricultural centre, and possessing an important corn-market, has had a peculiar attraction for schools, homes, and other philanthropic institutions; there is also an iron-works which employs hands enough to give the town a "manufacturing" air at certain hours.

The *Church* of *SS. Peter and Paul* (155 × 74 ft.) is cruciform and unusually spacious. Like most "town churches" it has been perpendicularised. Much money has been spent on restoration, and satisfactory work has been done; but the general effect is marred by the insertion of a mediocre E. window, filled with bad modern glass. Notice the magnificent tower-piers and arches, late E.E., as are also the nave arcades; the remains of screens, and the excellent misereres and poppy-heads in the chancel. At the W. end are two transomed Dec. windows with very heavy buttresses, and on the S. is a Perp. porch. The font is fine E.E. with tooth-ornament. In the chancel is an alabaster altar-tomb with effigies (not *in situ*) of Sir W^m. Fitzwarren and Amicia his wife, 1361; and there are *Brasses* (1) Sir Ivo Fitzwarren (1414), a fine brass on the N.W. pier of the tower; (2) a priest, half-length, *c.* 1420; (3) William Geddyng (1512); (4) Walter Talbot (1522), his 2 wives and 5 children; (5) William Willmott (1618), the figure being that of a woman; (6) a plate to Roger Merlaw and wife (1460). On the N.E. aisle outside, is an inscription commemorating the outbreak of cholera which carried off 19 persons in Oct. 1832. Remains of an earlier Norm. church stood in the churchyard, well into the present century; a Norm. doorway removed from it can be seen built into the present Grammar School.

Where the Hungerford road enters the town is an Almshouse, founded by Robert Stiles, of Amsterdam (1680). Part of the entrance passage is floored with bones, presumably vertebræ of oxen.

¾ m. E. of Wantage is the hamlet of *Charlton*, where a manor-house still exists, which sheltered King Charles I. on several occasions in 1643–4. In a panelled room upstairs, is a carved oak mantelpiece.

17½ m. **E. Hanney.** About a mile off the highroad to the W. is **West Hanney.** The large *Church* (107½ × 60½ ft.) is cruciform, but has been much altered. The roof has been raised, and a modern clerestory added; the W. window, the S. transept, and the pillars of the S. arcade, are modern. A squint on the S. has been recently blocked, and an ugly hoarding

shuts off the N. transept and destroys the proportions of the church. The chancel arch is acute E.E., carried on corbel-shafts with good foliage in the capitals. The S. aisle is excellent; notice the square-headed Dec. windows, and outside, the graceful blind panelling in the parapet. The S. door is Dec., with a rough stone porch added, the N. door good Norm. The tower built over the N. transept is massive E.E., with late and bad upper story. It has a good reticulated Dec. window on the E., and a rare buttress window on the W. The original wood stairs to the belfry remain.

There are many *fine brasses*: (1) a priest, *c.* 1380; (2) Humphry Cheyne, 1557, with interesting request in English for prayers; (3) John Ayshcombe, 1591; (4) Sir Christopher Lytcott, "knighted in the camp before Rouen, Nov. 16, 1591, by the hands of the French King, Henry IV.," who "ended this pilgrimage at Bastledon, April 25, 1599"; (5) Frances Wellesborne, 1602; (6) Oliver Ayshcombe, 1611. In the nave is a tablet to Eliz. Bowles, who died 1718, aged 124.

Traces on one of the *brasses* seem to indicate that files of sons and daughters formed part of the ordinary stock-in-trade of the 16th and 17th century tomb-maker, and that the requisite number were cut off the file to suit the various cases (cf. *Shottesbrook*).

Close to the church are, an 18th-cent. red-brick house with a very fine mulberry-tree on the lawn; an old house S.W. of church called Priory Court, once belonging to Abingdon Abbey; and on N.E. of church parts of an old manor of the Yates (cf. Lyford and Buckland), the "gate" of whose coat can still be seen in the weathercock.

At **Garford,** lying to the W., and

21 m. **Marcham,** the churches are rebuilt and the villages are without interest.

23 m. ABINGDON (see Route 10).

ROUTE 13.

WANTAGE TO FARINGDON.

(By Denchworth and Charney.)

9 m

Challow, Goosey, Stanford, Denchworth, Lyford, Charney, Shellingford, Hatford.

The road is good and nearly level.

1 m. **East Challow**, and 2 m. **West Challow** to W., are uninteresting villages with poor *Churches*, though at West Challow there is a pre-Reformation chalice.

At E. Challow the road crosses the Wilts and Berkshire canal, now practically disused. It joins the Thames at Abingdon.

3 m. Challow *Station* (G.W.R.).

4 m. A little off the road to the E. is **Goosey**, with a handful of cottages, sprinkled round a very large village green. Some of the houses are old, and one has two clipt peacock yews. The *Church* ($53\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ ft.) is a chapelry of Stanford-in-the-Vale, and in style mainly E.E. but "restored." Notice the E.E. piscina, and the interesting Dec. roof. In the chancel it has tie and collar beams with a wall-plate

panelled with trefoils ; in the nave king-posts with wall-pieces carried on good E.E. corbels. A small figure of a kneeling saint in 15th-cent. glass remains in the nave, and the door-key is E.E. A W. bell-cot is carried on a heavy interior frame. There is a churchyard cross.

The termination "-ey" in Goosey, Hanney, Childrey, and Charney, is significant of the former state of the Vale of the White Horse, in which these villages once stood out as "islands."

5½ m. **Stanford-in-the-Vale** has a fine and interesting *Church* (122 × 34½ ft.). The chancel is very good Dec. throughout. The 4-light E. window is filled with bad glass, but has some remains of good angels in the head, and there are remains of 15th-cent. glass in a Perp. window over the S. porch; also in some of the chancel S. windows. Notice the *unique Dec. piscina* with a reliquary above it, and a squint on the N. carried past the vestry (original Dec.) door by a curiously arranged pilaster. On the S.E. of nave is a *low-side window*, single-light trefoiled Dec. The N. porch is E.E., and higher than the aisle roof. The S. porch is now Perp., but the S. doorway has older Norm. and Dec. shafts left, producing an extraordinary medley of styles. This porch is said to have been built in 1472, to commemorate the marriage of Richard, Duke of Gloucester (afterwards Richard III.) with Anne Neville of Warwick, the young widow of Prince Edward, son of Henry VI. She was under 19 even when Richard married her, and his fetterlock and rose are impaled with her ragged staff on the corbel-shields of the dripstone. Under the late and poor clerestory windows are to be seen the small original E.E. lights. There are also an Elizabethan pulpit, a strange Elizabethan wooden font and cover, a bulge staircase on the N. with small windows to roodloft; and a good W. tower E.E., but with top story Perp. There is a *brass* to Roger Campdene, 1398.

Round the churchyard are planted some fine elms.

East of Goosey and Stanford are the interesting villages of Denchworth, Lyford, and Charney Basset.

Denchworth has both village and churchyard cross. The *Church*, small cruciform, with a puny north tower, has a good squint from the N. aisle. In the chancel are brasses of the Hydes, lords of the manor from Edward I. to James I., and in the S. transept many 18th-cent. monuments to their successors, the Geerings. The Hyde *brasses* have been re-set: they are—(1) Oliver Hyde, 1516; (2) Wm, Hyde, 1567; (3) Wm. Hyde, 1562. This last has a late instance of "*Ora pro animabus*," and is a *palimpsest*. It seems to have come from Bisham (*q.v.*), and to relate to the foundation of the abbey there for Austin canons by William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury. The inscription is curious, "Edward Roy Danglére qe fist le siege devant la cite de Berwyke e conquyst la bataille . . . e la dite cite la veille seinte Margarete lan de grace 1333 mist cette pere a la requeste Sire William de Mountagu foundour de ceste mesoin." There is also a *brass* to W. Say, 1493. In the windows, and on the outside of S. transept, are the argent chevronels of Fettiplace many times repeated; the family had a seat at North Denchworth.

There is a parish library, begun in 1613 by Mr. Ralph Kedden, then Vicar. Gregory Geering, patron

and churchwarden, built a room for the books over the porch of the church. "Here they remained till Mr. Street (then a local architect) pulled down porch and chamber, when he 'restored' the church in 1852. He replaced the porch by a very ugly lean-to, since altered. At that time Mr. Horton, vicar, took the books to the vicarage, stripped them of their chains, except two kept as specimens, and placed them in common shelves." The library contained Caxton's "Golden Legend," 1483; but this was sold by the Vicar to an Oxford bookseller for £20 in 1852, and is now in the Bodleian. Among the books is Thomas Aquinas, 4 vols., 1485, and a copy of the 4th edition of Cranmer's Bible, 1541. This edition lacks Cromwell's arms, as it was printed after his execution July 28th, 1540. Here is also shown the white rib of a manatee, an amphibious E. African mammal, with an inscription: "This is the rib of a mermaid which was brought to Bristoll from Angola by (illegible) of Portugale, who were taken prisoners in the (illegible) times, 1631."

E. of the church is a farm containing portions of an old manor-house of the Hydes, including two Perp. doors, some Perp. windows (one with tracery blocked), and a Perp. front door over which is a fine scollop (*c.* 1700).

Lyford, a picturesque village on the Ock stream. The *Church* (67 × 18¼ ft.) was originally E.E., but the chancel is much restored, and the chancel arch modern. There is a shouldered aumbry, a good E.E. piscina, and a blocked squint on the N. There is a *low-side window* on the S.W., and another on the N.W. of the chancel. Both appear to be E.E. There is a Jacobean pulpit, and a W. bell-cot on very heavy interior framing. In the churchyard are some fine yew and elms.

Close to the church on the W. is a picturesque Elizabethan farmhouse, once surrounded by a moat from the Ock stream.

300 yards N. of the church is another moated house, formerly a seat of the old Catholic family of Yates. Their cognisance, a gate, may be seen in many churches in the neighbourhood. In this house, on Sunday, July 16th, 1581, the famous Jesuit, Campion, was taken. Mrs. Yates was then living there, and gave shelter to eight Brigittine nuns, who were lingering out their existence, after being expelled, at the Dissolution, from their nunneries. Campion was saying mass in an attic when the alarm was given that "Judas" Eliot, a spy, had surrounded the house with a posse of constables. Campion took refuge in a hiding-hole, and was not discovered till the Monday morning; he was put to terrible tortures, and finally hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn, Dec. 1st, 1581. Of the old house little now remains. It was once quadrangular, but much was pulled down *c.* 1800; the inside was remodelled in 1880.

In the village is the fragment of a very old half-timber house, and some small red-brick almshouses, to the number of 20, founded by Oliver Ashcombe, a native of Lyford (1611). They form a 3-sided oblong quadrangle, with a "prayer-room" under the clock, but have been largely rebuilt, and are not worth visiting.

Charney, a picturesque scattered village, lying low on the Ock stream, with many polled willows. There is a village cross.

The *Church* (61 × 34 ft.) is very interesting. In the Perp. E. window are some remains of 15th-cent. glass. On N. of chancel is a curious door opening to an oblique passage

which forms a squint to N. aisle. The head of this door (an earlier survival) is round, with elaborate Norm. sculpture in mouldings and tympanum, representing a kilted figure having its hands on the necks of two griffins. The head seen at the top of arch seems a later addition, and the passage is Perp. There is also a rich Norm. S. doorway, with cable moulding and crowned men's and animals' heads with forked and scrolled tongues. The chancel arch is plain Norm. segmental, the W. bell-cot Perp. with 17th-cent. parapet and pinnacles. There is a Jacobean pulpit. In N. aisle is a *low-side window*, single-light Perp. Its position at the extreme E. is very curious.

Adjoining the churchyard on N. are remains of a Grange of Abingdon Abbey. The present house is modern, but has attached to it on the S. a very interesting E.E. and early Dec. building. In the cellar or ground floor notice a shouldered fireplace, the massive roof beams, and a very early cider-press. The first floor, or Solar, has at E. a chapel ($12\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ ft.) with plain early Dec. E. window, aumbry and piscina; and at W. is a room with Perp. fireplace and fine early Dec. roof, now in sad repair. This room seems to have been shortened, and at the W. is the jamb of a blocked Perp. window which would command the lowside window in the church, distant only 5 yards.

$6\frac{1}{2}$ m. The road here branches off to Shellingford on the l. and Hatford on the r.

1 mile S.W. is the interesting village of **Shellingford**. The *Church* of St. Faith ($84 \times 19\frac{1}{2}$ ft.) has a W. spire and tower E.E., with two very long lancets in upper story. The chancel has a good E. window, 3-light Dec., and on N. a large Perp. 3-light window (lower part blocked) under a Perp. recess, with quatrefoil panels in the soffits. The nave windows are Perp., except one Dec. on S. The S. chancel doorways of nave are late Norm. There is a *low-side window* on the N., 2-light, square-headed, and transomed Perp. with a compartment blocked below the present window. The pulpit is Elizabethan, the font Dec., and there is a patchwork of old glass of different dates in a window S. of nave, and in 3 tracery lights of E. window. There is a *brass plate* in the nave to Mary Knappe, 1621, æt. 16, and an ugly monument to Sir Ed. Hannes, one of Queen Anne's physicians.

S. of the churchyard is a long two-storied range of stone Perp. buildings with plain doors and windows, and one good Perp. chimney. These are called Shellingford Castle, and were once the offices of a large mansion of the Packers, lords of the manor in the 17th and 18th cents. The place was abandoned when they sold the estate in 1738, and gradually fell to ruin. The overgrown fishponds and the ruined pleasure gardens, with fine elm avenue and yew hedge, are still to be seen. There is also a very curious *skittle alley of yews.*

1 m. N.E. of the turn is the small village of **Hatford**, where a bad new church was built in 1874, and where the old church ($67 \times 15\frac{1}{2}$ ft.) remains in a ruinated condition. The chancel is used as a mortuary chapel, and has a good Dec. sepulchral recess, with male effigy holding a heart (perhaps a mutilated chalice), a S.W. *low-side window* (early Dec.) and *brass plates* to Francis Pigot, 1614, Martha Pigot, 1629, and Margaret Pigot, 1637. The nave is roofless, and the W. end is blocked with an "Egyptian" mausoleum. There is a

S. door Norm., with a curious head (of later chiselling) in the right capital. It was in this chapel that Sir Edward Unton (*see* Faringdon) married Anne Seymour, widow of the Earl of Warwick, daughter of Protector Somerset, and first cousin of Edward VI.

9 m. FARINGDON (*see* Rte. 14).

ROUTE 14.

FARINGDON TO OXFORD.

(By Buckland and Cumnor.)

17 miles.

Faringdon, Radcot Bridge, The Coxwells, Eaton Hastings, Buscot, Inglesham, Coleshill, Longcot, Shrivenham, Buckland, Pusey, Hinton Waldrist, Longworth, Fyfield, Besselsleigh, Appleton, Wootton, Cumnor, Wytham.

The road is nearly flat and the surface good; there are fine views on the N. after leaving Faringdon.

FARINGDON (*stat.*: a branch line connects F. with Uffington), a bright market town situated on the slope of a small theatre of hills. It is said to have been a residence of the Saxon kings, and here Edward the Elder died in 925. In 1144 Robert Earl of Gloucester built an "adulterine" castle at Faringdon, which he held for the Empress; but it was stormed and razed by Stephen. In 1203 John gave Faringdon Manor to the Cistercian Abbey of Beaulieu (Hants), and a small cell of that abbey was built at Faringdon (see also *Great Coxwell*). Henry III., his Queen, Prince Edward, and Roger de Mortimer, his Commander, were once housed for a night at Faringdon by the Abbot of Beaulieu, and the expenses came to 100*s.* 6*d.* for the King, 75*s.* for the Queen, 50*s.* 6*d.* for Prince Edward, and 4*s.* for the Commander.

A coarse penance for incontinent widows prevailed at Faringdon, as at Enborne and Chaddleworth (*q.v.*).

In the market-place is an old town hall with an undercroft. The district supplies large quantities of milk for the London market.

The *Church* is cruciform and large (134 × 79½ ft.). The nave has Trans. arcades with some fine undercut E.E. foliage in the capitals. The W. window, and two on N.W. of nave are very late Perp. The S. transept is rebuilt; the old S. transept and a central spire were destroyed during the Civil War troubles, *c.* 1645. The tower as it stands has been much defaced, but the intersection arches are fine E.E. The piers are not so massive as at Wantage, but the foliage in the capitals is excellent. In the aisle of the N. transept is a fine 4-light Dec. window with pendant foliation. The chancel, E.E., has good double piscina, E.E., sedilia Dec., and a S.W. lancet *low-side window*, with its bottom part blocked, and original stanchion and cross-bars remaining. The arches opening into the *Pye Chapel* on the N. of the chancel are filled with modern Perp. tracery.

The church is rich in *monuments*. The *brasses* are mostly moved from their places and incorrectly fixed. There seem to be (1) effigies of Thos. Faringdon, with widow and daughter, *c.* 1450; (2) large effigies of John Parker and wife, 1485; (3) John Sadler, a vicar, 1505; (4) in Purbeck marble canopied recess, painted and gilt brass to Sir Alexander Unton and two wives, 1547.

The aisle of the N. transept is known as the *Unton Chapel.* The Untons lived (*c.* 1530—1650) at Wadley Hall, an interesting house on rt. of Oxford road, 1 m. from Faringdon. It has a fine avenue, oak staircase, hall, and panelled rooms. In the Unton Chapel are many monuments to the family, and to the Purefoys who acquired Wadley by marriage. Notice the fine alabaster altar-tomb to Sir Henry Unton, *d.* 1596, erected by his wife Dorothy. Her effigy, with pleasant natural face, and gold stomacher, used to kneel at his feet: but restorers have divorced her, and she is now in the *Pye Chapel.* Sir Henry wears the collar of S.S. He was a friend and kinsman of Sir Philip Sidney, was knighted at the siege of Zutphen, and was twice Ambassador at the Court of France (see also under *Hatford*). When the young duke Henri de Guise spoke some slighting words of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Henry Unton sent him a famous challenge :—

"Forasmuch as in the lodging of Lord Dumayne, and in public elsewhere, impudently and indiscreetly and overboldly you spoke badly of that Sovereign whose sacred person I in this country represent, . . . I say you have most wickedly lied . . . and hereupon I do defy and challenge your person to mine with such manner of arms as you shall like or choose, be it on horseback or on foot. Nor would I have you think that there is any inequality between us, I being issued of as great a race and noble house in all respects as yourself. So . . . I will maintain my words, and the lie which I have given, and which you should not endure if you have any courage at all in you. If you consent not to meet me hereupon I will hold you, and cause you to be held, for the arrantest coward and most slanderous slave that exists in France. I expect your answer."

He died in 1596 in Paris, but was brought to Faringdon for burial, and being Ambassador, was given the honour of a "baron's hearse." At the E. end of the chancel is a cannon ball built into the wall, having a tablet under it to "John Buckley, formerly surgeon to His Majesty's navy, who in an engagement with the French squadron off the coast of Portugal, Aug. 17, 1759, had his left leg shot off by the above ball."

To the N. of the church is *Faringdon House*, once the seat of the Pye family, who bought it in 1622. On the site of the present house was an older building, held for the king in the Civil War, and only surrendered, June 1646, by Charles' orders after the capitulation of Oxford. Sir Robert Pye (who married John Hampden's sister) conducted the siege operations against his own house on behalf of the Parliament. The present house was built in 1780 by Henry Pye, who became Poet-laureate in that year, and united with his cultivation of the muse the duties of a police-magistrate at Westminster. Even among laureates Pye is notorious for bad verse. The beauties of the neighbourhood are commemorated in his poem "Faringdon Hill." He sold Faringdon House in 1788, but "Faringdon Clump" was planted by his direction, and this was "probably the most poetic act of his life."

Faringdon Clump, a grove of Scotch firs on an eminence of iron-sand overlooking the town, is the chief landmark in the Vale of the White Horse. It is locally known as "The Folly," a name commonly given in the neighbourhood to all tree clumps crowning elevations. There is a path round it, with seats at intervals, and from it a *magnificent view* can be obtained. A road called Church Path, leading N. towards Littleworth (church modern), commands a noble prospect of the valley of the Thames for many miles.

2½ m. N. of Faringdon, on the Burford road, which passes through the park of Faringdon House, is

Radcot Bridge. This bridge is supported on three arches (those on either side being sharp pointed), and appears to date from *c.* 1300. The socket on the E. parapet probably carried a cross, and the buttressed niche on the W. is said to have supported a figure of the Virgin Mary. No traffic now passes on the stream beneath, being diverted into the New Cut made in 1787. The view of the bridge from the little pool below is picturesque. Here, in 1387 (Dec. 20), Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, favourite and minister of Richard II., met the partisans of the Duke of Gloucester under Henry Earl Derby, afterwards Henry IV. De Vere's troops were surrounded, and he only escaped himself by swimming down stream with half his armour on. In later years a sharp skirmish of the Civil Wars took place at the bridge, when Rupert's cavalry burst upon the Parliament men and drove them back across the river.

From Faringdon may be conveniently visited the villages of Little Coxwell, Great Coxwell, Eaton Hastings, Buscot, Inglesham, Coleshill, Longcot, and Shrivenham.

Little Coxwell, 1½ m. S. from Faringdon, has a small *Church* (64½ × 15½ ft.) more interesting outside than inside. The walls, S. doors of nave and chancel, and chancel arch, are Trans. Notice an E.E. bellcote, a 4-light Perp. window on S. of chancel, and the plain Dec. roof. The church has been maltreated by restorers, and the E. window is an insertion. The "very good rood-screen, the Jacobean pulpit with cushions and hangings of green velvet richly embroidered, of very beautiful Elizabethan workmanship, and the remarkably perfect hourglass stand with a spread eagle," have all disappeared since Parker wrote (1850). In a garden close to the churchyard are some good clipt yews.

2 m. S.W. from Faringdon is **Great Coxwell.** The *Church* is interesting. The chancel is E.E., and has a S.W. *low-side window* with a modern shutter for the open portion. In the E. wall are two niches, a recess behind the altar, and two aumbries. There is an early Dec. window on the S. of the nave, which has interior foliation; and the bulge of the rood-stair can be seen with a little window to light it. The W. tower is good Perp., and there is a sanctus-bell niche on the E. gable of the nave. There are *brasses* to Johane Morys, and Wm. Morys "sumtyme fermer of Cokyswell," *c.* 1500. From a stile in the churchyard is a fine view of White Horse Hill.

Coxwell Manor was given by John to the Cistercians of Beaulieu Abbey, 1204, and they had a grange here. The family of Morys or Mores farmed for them, and obtained the Manor at the Dissolution. The noble *Abbey Barn*, Dec., still stands ¼ m. N. of the Church. It is 152½ × 38½ ft. interior measurement, rises 51 ft. to the ridge, and has walls 4 ft. thick. The S. door is modern, E. and W. doors ancient. On the E. is a fine porch with a tallat in which the monks are said to have slept at harvest-time. The floor is beaten mud, and the roof heavy Stonesfield slate. Close to it is an Elizabethan farmhouse.

A short distance from Great Coxwell, N. of the high-road from Faringdon to Highworth, is the earthwork of *Badbury Hill.* It is a circular camp of about 14 acres area, surrounded by a trench. It was thickly planted with trees, *c.* 1820, but the mounds have been "degraded" by grubbing for hone and building stones. From the camp there are magnificent views,

W. and N. over the wide plains, and S. to White Horse Hill. Faringdon Hill shuts in the view on the E.

3 m. N.W. of Faringdon is **Eaton Hastings**, with fine trees and meadows. The *Church* lies close to the Thames, and a field S. of it called the "Old Town," with a cottage or two, marks the old site of the village; the present village has been built a mile away. The church ($76\frac{1}{2}$ × 21 ft.) is interesting, and mainly E.E. There was once a Trans. S. aisle, but this has been destroyed and the arcade blocked. Between the blocked late Trans. arches, E.E. windows have been inserted. The chancel arch, N. door (with Dec. niche above it) and font are Trans. The sedile, piscina, and S. doorway are E.E. On S. of chancel and of S. aisle are *low-side windows*.

Buscot, 4 m. N.W. of Faringdon, is beautifully situated in well-timbered meadows. The aisleless *Church* ($93\frac{1}{2}$ × $20\frac{1}{2}$ ft.), which is somewhat detached from the pretty village, seems to have been mainly E.E. There is a fine chancel arch Trans., with bold but rough chevron moulding. The chancel windows have been gutted and churchwardenised, but two have interior cinque-foliation. Two others are filled with good glass by Burne-Jones. There are two E.E. piscinæ, one on each side of a window sill which serves for a sedile on S. of the chancel, and in the side of the window is a deep trefoiled niche. Behind the altar is an aumbry, an arrangement not uncommon in the neighbourhood. There are two mutilated *brass* figures, *c.* 1450. The S. door and W. tower are Perp. Close to the church is a pleasant rectory (*c.* 1680) attached to an older rectory-house, which has a Perp. chimney. From the meadows on N. there is a pretty view of the church.

Buscot House, built 1780, stands in an extensive deer-park. In the grounds is a large lake.

2 m. from Buscot, and just over the Wilts border, on the W. side of the road from Lechlade to Highworth, is the isolated *Church* (49 × 36 ft.) of **Inglesham**. It is hidden among trees, is most interesting, and happily unrestored. The chancel has a good 3-light E. window, E.E.—Dec., with interior cinque-foliation; on the N. side are two E.E. windows connected by a string-course, and below them a blind arcade of round-headed arches with E.E. mouldings and string-course; on the S. side is an E.E.-Dec. window, and a Perp. arch has been opened in the Perp. east bay of the S. aisle. The nave arcades are Trans., and the W. windows are all Perp.; the font is good panelled Perp. In the N. aisle is a trefoiled E.E. doorway. There is much good woodwork in the church, including Perp. screens in aisles, some fine pews, and a Jacobean pulpit with sounding board. On a pillar in the N. arcade is an hourglass stand. Outside, notice the good bell-cot, Dec., plain parapet, Perp., with two bold gurgoyles on the S. Built into the S. wall near the porch is a sculpture of the Virgin Mary *c.* 1250, with a sundial: cf. Burford and Langford (Hdbk. for Oxon). In the churchyard is the lofty shaft of a cross.

Coleshill, 3 m. S.W. of Faringdon, is a model village, without an inn. Most of the cottages were built of stone on a uniform plan by the 2nd Earl of Radnor. Coleshill stands on a little hill above the streamlet *Cole*, which joins the Thames near Lechlade. The *Church* has been largely rebuilt; and the chancel, N. aisle, and S. transeptal chapel are modern.

The E. window was brought from Angers in 1787. The nave arcades are E.E. on the N., and Trans. on S.; the W. tower is Perp. with good details. The parvise over the Dec. porch has been raised and converted into a sort of gallery-pew. In the S. chapel is a long brass inscription set up by Sir Mark Stuart Pleydell, 1738, saying that the present building takes the place of a larger chantry founded in 1499 by Thos. Pleydell. The old chantry seems to have been stone vaulted, and there are many fragments of excellent work from it, to be seen in the porch and elsewhere in the church. In the present S. chapel is a mutilated figure with a shield (Champneys impaling Pleydell: *v.* inscription), and plates showing the former position of the graves of Thos. Pleydell, his wife, and daughter. There are monuments to Sir Hy. Pratt, 1647; and to the Countess of Radnor, 1751, by Rysbrach. Among the fragments under the tower notice a good Madonna with dead Christ, and two hands holding a seeded rose—a badge that has also been built into the porch and modern vestry. In the churchyard is the base and shaft of a village cross.

Coleshill House, erected by Inigo Jones, 1650, is on the brow of the hill in a fine park. Its lofty frontage commands very extensive views towards Highworth and the plain, N.W. It contains a fine hall and many good family portraits, but the principal pictures of the Bouveries are at Longford in Wilts.

4 m. S.W. of Faringdon is the pretty village of **Longcot.** The *Church* (97 × 20½ ft.), with modern S. wall, has been well restored. The trefoil-headed N. door is good E.E. There are good 4-light Perp. windows N. and S. of chancel, and in the nave are two small Perp. *low-side windows*, that on the S. having a good piscina. The head of the rood-loft stair remains, and there is an aumbry on either side of the altar. The tower dates from 1724. From the churchyard to the S. is an excellent *view* of the White Horse Hill.

In this village are many vine-clad cottages, a common feature in the hamlets nestling under the downs.

5½ m. S.W. of Faringdon is **Shrivenham** (*Stat.*), a clean village, which has benefited much from the liberality of the Barrington family. The *Church* retains a fine central Perp. tower, carried on unusually acute arches, with mouldings taken to the ground without caps. The rest of the building is Jacobean, with pseudo-Norman arcades, and pillars (of chalk) tapering from base to capital. The windows throughout are large 4-light debased, but the church is spacious, and the general effect light, pleasing, and decorous. The pulpit, and the seating throughout, are in excellent taste. Here are monuments to John Wildman, the Anabaptist (afterwards Sir John Wildman, of Beckett, d. 1693), who directed by his will

"that, if his executors should think fit, there should be some stone of small price set near his ashes, to signify, without foolish flattery, to his posterity, that in that age lived a man who spent the best part of his days in prisons, without crimes, being conscious of no offence towards man, for that he so loved his God that he could serve no man's will, and wished the liberty and happiness of his country and of all mankind."

The other is to John Wildman, his son (d. 1710), who

"preferred confinement for many years with his father, who was a prisoner in the Isle of Scilly, in the reign of Charles II., to the full enjoyment of his liberty."

There is also a monument to John's adopted son, John Shute, afterwards the first Viscount Barrington, (d. 1793), for 39 years a distin-

guished member of the House of Commons; and one to Samuel Barrington, Admiral of the White, 1800, who was distinguished in the wars of 1741-56, especially by the capture of the French ship *Count St. Florentine.* The flag which he took from her hangs close by. His epitaph is by Hannah Moore:—

"Here rests the Hero who in glory's page
Wrote his fair deeds for more than half an age.
Here rests the patriot who for England's good,
Each toil encountered and each clime withstood.
Here rests the Christian; his the loftier claim,
To seize the conquest, yet renounce the fame.
He, when his arm St. Lucia's trophies boasts,
Ascribes the glory to the Lord of Hosts;
And when the harder task remained behind,
The passive courage, and the will resigned,
Patient the veteran victor yields his breath,
Secure in Him who conquered sin and death."

Near the church are six almshouses, founded and endowed by Henry Marten, the regicide.

Beckett House, built 1834, contains some good family portraits by Sir J. Reynolds and Sir T. Lawrence, and some interesting French miniatures, including two of Louis XIV., when young and when old, by Petitôt. Among the curiosities are the chessboard and men of Charles I., in the original velvet bag in which they were sold by the Parliament. In the grounds is a lake, and a stone summer-house attributed to Inigo Jones.

Beckett once belonged to the Earls of Evreux. It was seized in 1204 by King John, who probably resided here occasionally, as a mandate of his to the sheriff of Oxfordshire is dated from Beckett. Later the De Becotes held the manor by tenure of meeting the King, whenever he should pass Fowyeare's Mill Bridge, in Shrivenham, with two white capons.

3½ m. **Buckland**, a large village, with many well-built houses, but now dwindling in population.

The fine *Church* (125 × 65½) is cruciform. The roof was lowered 1768, and *c.* 1787 the tracery was removed from all the windows, and heavy mullions carried straight into the heads, without foliation; though the general effect is not so unpleasing as might have been imagined. The centre tower is massive E.E., carried on fine intersection arches. In the chancel notice: fine suite of E.E. sedilia; piscina (with an Italian 17th-cent. sculpture at back, brought here *c.* 1810); Dec. sepulchral recesses on N. and S.; an aumbry in E. wall, and a triangular aumbry on N. wall containing the heart of Wm. Holcot. The Holcots owned Barcote, in this parish, from 1292 to 1570 (*vide* a tablet in S. transept). The last of them, William Holcot, was a whimsical character. He was a Reformationist preacher, *temp.* Edward VI., recanted to escape the Marian fires, but in safer days under Elizabeth was again filled with Protestant zeal, and used to preach wearing velvet bonnet, damask gown, and gold chain. By will he left his heart to Buckland Church. It is preserved in a little round maple-wood box of Italian 17th-cent. manufacture, and is now dried up to a ruddy brown. Behind the altar is hung a curious "Abstract of various laws for the better ordering of Society," 1787. In it are laid down punishments for profanation of the Lord's Day, drunkenness, swearing, lewdness, gaming, vagrancy, false weights, etc.; and among the punishments are included whipping, the stocks, and pillory. In the N. transept, or *Throckmorton aisle*, are mural monuments to Sir John Yate, 1658, and Sir Ed. Yate, *c.* 1650, with curious inscriptions; also a good *Brass* to John Yate, 1578. In the

floor is an incised slab, *c.* 1300, which may read:

"Vous qui par yci passez
Pour dame Felice la Blonde priez
Re Marie la mere Jesu
Eit al alme verre salu."

The name seems to be La Blonde, not Le Blount. The S. transept, or Barcote aisle, has been over-elaborately decorated in glass mosaics at the cost of William West, of Barcote. The nave has small Norm. windows, Norm. N. and S. doorways, the last retaining a door and ironwork which seem Dec.; and there are a good Perp. font and a curious Jacobean gallery giving access to the tower.

The Yates held Buckland Manor 1545—1690, and their old house stands N. of the church. It is now churchwardenised, and only used as stables and offices, but has on the E. side an Elizabethan bay. In 1690 the estate passed to the Catholic family of Throckmorton (of Coughton, Warwick), and in 1757 Sir Robert Throckmorton built the present *Buckland House* (Sir William Throckmorton) to the designs of Wood of Bath. It has a ceiling by *Cipriani*. A gallery leading to the dining-room contains some curious relics, among them a chemise of Mary Queen of Scots, and a gold medal of Charles I., taken from the body of Sir Baynham Throckmorton (the last of the Gloucestershire branch of the family). Here also is preserved a coat, the wonder of 1811, in which year it was made. In one day two sheep belonging to Sir John Throckmorton were shorn, the wool spun, spooled, warped, loomed, and woven; the cloth burred, milled, dyed, dried, sheared, and pressed; after which the coat was made up by White, a Newbury tailor, and worn by Sir John at an agricultural dinner, at the *Pelican*, in Speenhamland (see *Newbury*), within 13 hrs. 20 min. from the time the sheep-shearing commenced. This scene is represented in a picture. There are some pictures of merit, and many valuable MSS., including some original letters of the poet Cowper. Near the church is a Roman Catholic chapel (of no architectural interest) erected by the late Sir Robert Throckmorton.

4½ m. One mile S. of the road is **Pusey**. The *Church* (rebuilt 1753) has monuments:—A very fine incised white marble slab to Henry Doggett, *c.* 1450, a *Scheemakers* monument to Jane Pusey, 1742, two mural monuments to Dunches, of Little Wittenham (one by Byrd, a famous Oxford tomb-maker), and on the outside of the S. transept a *brass* plate to Richard Pusey, 1655, and curious epitaph to a child, Wm. White, 1655.

Pusey House, like Buckland, was built by Wood, of Bath, *c.* 1753; it has a good prospect over a park with fine timber. One of the Puseys (the original family, even in the female line, is long since extinct) is said to have received the manor from Canute, to be held by Cornage, or tenure of a horn. A horn of uncertain date is still preserved in Pusey House. Dr. Hickes, in 1681, states that in his time both the horn and manor were possessed by Charles Pusey, who had recovered the manor in the Court of Chancery, before Lord Chancellor Jefferies.

"The horn itself was produced in Court, and with universal admiration received, admitted, and proved to be the identical horn by which, as by a charter, Canute had conveyed the manor of Pusey 700 years before. The horn is that of an ox of middling size, mounted in silver-gilt, in workmanship of the latter part of the 15th cent. The colour of the horn is dark brown, which proves it to be a real ox-horn, and not, as was sometimes the case, made of ivory. It is 2 ft. 6 in. long, and 9½ in. high from its feet; the circumference

at the largest end is 1 ft., in the middle, 9¼ in., and at the small end, 2½ in. The dog's head at the orifice was formerly moveable, turning upon a joint, so as to make it either a hunting or a drinking horn."

On the silver-gilt band, elegantly wrought, is an inscription :

"I King Knowde geve Wyllyam Pecote this horne to hold by thy lond."

The earliest historical mention of the family was in 1155, when Henry de Pesie held the manor. The present family (of French Protestant origin) changed their name of Bouverie for that of Pusey on succeeding to the property by marriage.

In the reign of Edward I. Alice Paternoster held lands here by service of saying a paternoster five times a-day, for the souls of the King's ancestors; and Richard Paternoster succeeding to an estate in this parish said the Lord's Prayer thrice before the barons of the exchequer, as John, his brother, had done previously, instead of paying a relief.

1 m. E. of Pusey, and accessible from the main road (½ m. S.) is *Cherbury Camp*, a large oval earthwork, surrounded by a triple mound. It lies in the low-land, and is defended by waterways.

5½ m. One mile N. of the road is **Hinton Waldrist.** The name is a corruption of Hinton St. Walerys, and it once formed part of the great Barony of the St. Walerys. Henry de St. Walery, one of the rebellious Barons, lost his property in King John's reign, but had it restored to him by Henry III., 1216. The family of St. Walery soon afterwards became extinct, but the moat and keep-mound of their castle are still to be seen near the present house (Elizabethan, but much modified). The castle commanded the ford at Duxford close by. From the site fine views of the Cotswolds, Oxfordshire Hills and White Horse Downs are obtainable. The *Church* (88 × 64 ft.) has been so restored as to call for no notice.

Longworth, one mile E., has an interesting *Church* (95 × 36½ ft.) well restored. The nave arcades are Trans ; the S. clerestory is pleasing Perp. ; the tower has open supporting arches, and is Perp. There is a small N. chancel-chapel, on the wall of which is a tablet with curious euphuistic inscription. The pretty Jacobean screen seems to have been brought from elsewhere. There are *brasses*: (1) John Henley, a rector, 1422; (2) Elynor Godolphin, 1566, "to whome we beseche the blessed Trynitie to graunt a joyfull Resurrection," a rare invocation for the date ; (3) a shroud-brass with two effigies to Rich. Yate and Johane his wife, 1500.

Dr. Fell, Bishop of Oxford, was born here 1625, and the manor was once owned by Sir H. Marten, father of the regicide.

8 m. **Kingston Bagpuze** (pop. 208) has a *Church* built *c.* 1800. Here roads diverge to Oxford, Faringdon, Abingdon, and to Witney, crossing the Thames by New Bridge.

New Bridge, like Radcot Bridge, is probably early Dec., and is mentioned by Leland as the oldest of all bridges over the Thames, "lying in low meadows, often overflowed with rage of rain." Here in a skirmish the Parliament men were badly defeated, May 27, 1644 ; but Waller marched his troops across it without fighting, June 2 following.

9 m. ✠ **Fyfield.** The *Church* (86 × 53 ft.) was almost entirely destroyed by fire Oct. 27, 1893. All that a careful and generous

restoration can do has been done. The Golafre and Gordon monuments, the reredos-cornice, sedilia, and credence-table have been spared, but the smell of fire has passed over them, and everywhere the stones show traces of burning. On N. of chancel is the recessed and panelled Perp. tomb ascribed to the "White Rose of Scotland," daughter of Alexander, 3rd Earl of Huntley, widow of Perkin Warbeck, and at her death (1527) wife of Christopher Ashfield of Fyfield. Notice the fine Dec. piscina, the plainer Dec. sedilia, the Perp. credence-table and the ball-flower cornice under the roof. The chancel is good Dec. throughout, and was built (*c.* 1350) by Sir John Golafre, grandfather of that John Golafre who died in 1442, and built the N. aisle (Perp.). The two E. bays of this aisle are screened off and form the Golafre chantry, in which is the founder's monument, with armoured effigy above and cadaver below. He also founded a hospital here, dedicated to St. John Baptist. In the dripstone-corbels of the S.W. window of chancel are perhaps represented John Golafre (the elder) and his wife, and in those of the S.E. window Edward II. and his Queen. The W. and N. doors are good round-headed E.E. In S. transept is an incised monument to George Dale, 1625. The church is dignified and pleasing, with its lofty roofs, and rich woodwork which has replaced the burnt screens. Outside, it is festooned with roses, and the well-kept churchyard has the base of a cross.

On the N.W. over the churchyard wall is a tall gabled manor-house, now Elizabethan in appearance, which embodies parts of the 14th-cent. mansion built (*c.* 1350) by John Golafre, who married the heiress of John of Fyfield. This house was restored by Jas. Parker, who lived here many years. The manor was one of those bought by Sir Thomas White as part of the endowment of his college of S. John the Baptist at Oxford. The *White Hart*, a little roadside inn, probably represents in parts the house of the warden of John Golafre's chantry.

½ mile farther, where the Oxford and Abingdon roads bifurcate, is *Tubney Tree*, or Fyfield Elm, 36 ft. in circumference, a shattered giant. It is believed to be the resort of witches, who dance here at midnight; also of

> "Maidens, who from the distant hamlets come,
> To dance round Fyfield elm in May."
> *M. Arnold.*

Tubney *Church* was built by Pugin, 1848.

12 m. **Besselsleigh** derives its name from the ancient family of Besils, who obtained the estate by marriage in 1350. "At this Legh," writes Leland, "be very fayre pastures and woodes; the Blessells hathe been lords of it syns the time of Edward the First. The Blessels cam out of Provence in Fraunce, and were men of activitye in feates of armes, as it appearith in monuments at Legh; how he faught in listes with a strange knyghte that challengyd hym, at the whiche deade the kynge and quene at that tyme of England were present. The Blessels were countyed to have pocessyons of 400 marks by the yere." Sir Peter Besils dying in 1424 left moneys for Burford and Culham bridges (see *Abingdon*); also £600 to make reparation for wrongs he or his ancestors might have done to any man, and if not so spent then to make roads; and finally £120 to make six windows in the N. aisle of the Preaching Friars' church in Oxford, where he was to be buried. From the Besils the estate passed to the Fettiplaces, by whom it was sold in 1634 to William Lenthall (the Speaker of

the Long Parliament), and from them it descended to its present proprietor. The old manor-house is destroyed, except a picturesque fragment of the offices, now used as a farmhouse, and the massive stone pillars of the gateway, which stand isolated among the trees in the field, just over the W. wall of the churchyard. It is probable that this gateway, as well as the chapel of the Lenthalls' house at Burford, was built by Inigo Jones. In the old house at Besselsleigh was preserved the large picture of the family of Sir Thomas More, now at Cokethorpe, Oxfordshire. Another of these pictures is to be seen at East Hendred House, *q.v.*

The *Church* is small and aisleless; originally E.E., but now mostly poor Perp. The E. and W. windows are Trans. E.E.—Dec., and the former is cinquefoliated inside. There is a Dec. piscina, W. bellcote of two niches, and a projection carrying the rood-stair on the N. Inside are some plain monuments to the Lenthalls, and inscriptions showing that the church was repaired in 1632 by Wm. Lenthall the Speaker; in 1788 by Wm. J. Lenthall, and in 1888 by Mr. E. K. Lenthall, who died at Besselsleigh, 1892, and was said to be the last (1821) person born in Burford Priory, *q.v.* (Hdbk. Oxon.)

1 m. W. of Besselsleigh is **Appleton** (with Eaton). The *Church*, mostly Trans. and E.E., has a shroud *brass* to John Goodryngton 1518, and his wife Dorothy; who after his death "toke relygyon in y^e^ monastery of Syon." There is also a fine Elizabethan tomb to Sir John Fettiplace, 1593. The Fettiplaces acquired the manor by marriage from the Bessils, but sold it *c.* 1600. Two moats of old houses exist at Appleton, and a third house now called the Manor House has very considerable and surprising remains of Norm. E.E. work. The fine doorway of the Hall, round-headed with E.E. mouldings, has been engraved in Lysons, and in Parker's *Domestic Architecture*.

1 m. E. of Besselsleigh is **Wootton**, an upland village with fine trees, and a plain Dec.-Perp. *Church* (restored).

13½ m. ✠.**Cumnor** was a domain of Abingdon Abbey, and the Lord Abbot was rector of Cumnor and Lord of the Manor. Cumnor Place was used as a Summer House, and at times as a Sanatorium of the Abbey. The last Abbot, Thomas Rowland or Pentecost, was given Cumnor for life, with a heavy pension by Henry VIII., as a reward for his ready compliance in surrendering the Abbey. It was afterwards acquired by George Owen, Henry VIII.'s physician, and purchased from him by Anthony Forster in 1560, almost immediately after which occurred the tragedy which has made the name of Cumnor familiar to the world. Forster died in 1572, and the house remained untenanted for more than a century. During this period it acquired the name of Dudley Castle, and was reputed to be haunted by the ghost of Amy Robsart, who appeared, dressed in her best, at the foot of a staircase in the N.W. corner of the quadrangle. Nine parsons were at last summoned from Oxford, and laid the ghost in a pond close by, which never afterwards froze. The house was afterwards turned into tenements, and was finally pulled down *c.* 1810 by Lord Abingdon, when the material was used in the building of Wytham Church (*q.v.*) Part of a tablet inscribed "Janua vitæ verbum Domini, Antonius Forster 1571," which stood over the main gateway of Cumnor Place, was then removed to the doorway of Wytham churchyard; and the window which once lighted the "Dudley Chamber"

where Amy slept the night of her murder, is now the E. window of Wytham Church. Three disconnected arches of Cumnor Place stood for a long time, but all that now remains is some fragments of low walls and part of a chimney in a field on the S. side of the churchyard wall.

Amy was daughter of Sir John Robsart, a man of high family and large property in Norfolk. She married Lord Robert Dudley at Sheen, June 4, 1550, in the presence of Edward VI., as is stated in that king's journal. Her husband was raised to the peerage (three years after her death) as Lord Denbigh one day, and Earl of Leicester the next (Sept. 28, 29, 1563); but some years before this he had been treated with such marked favour by Elizabeth, that it was rumoured she would have married him, had he not had a wife already. The sudden death of the lady, on Sept. 8, 1560, at the age of 28, whilst residing far from the court, in the house of her husband's steward, Anthony Forster, almost inevitably gave rise to the idea that she had been murdered. Sir Walter Scott has adopted this view in his novel of *Kenilworth*, and it is likely ever to be the prevalent one, although some later writers have attempted to prove it to be unjust. According to the story as found in Ashmole, who faithfully reproduced whatever traditions he heard, Forster and an associate named Varney first attempted to destroy the lady by poison, and, failing in this, forcibly sent her servants away to Abingdon market, and then, "whether first stifling her or else strangling her, afterwards flung her down a pair of stairs and broke her neck, using much violence upon her." He adds that

"Sir R. Varney, afterwards dying in London, cried miserably, and blasphemed God, saying that all the devils in hell did tear him in pieces; and that Forster, being formerly a man addicted to hospitality, company, mirth, and music, was afterwards observed to forsake all this, and, being affected with much melancholy (some say madness), pined and drooped away."

Scott, as a novelist, took liberties with the situation, as well as with history; and as he gave Amy the title of Countess, which her husband had not the power of bestowing till three years after her death, and represented her as an inmate of Kenilworth during the Queen's visit there, fifteen years later, so he decked the unpretending monastic residence with lofty towers and spacious apartments; his first acquaintance with the story having been formed through Mickle's ballad of *Cumnor*:

"Full many a traveller has sigh'd
And pensive wept the Countess' fall,
As wandering onward he espied
The haunted towers of Cumnor Hall."

The mansion was really a low quadrangular edifice surrounding a small court, with some good Dec. windows, a park, and three fishponds.

In Pettigrew's "Inquiry into the Death of Amy Robsart," some original letters between Dudley and a friend named Blount (preserved in the Pepysian Library, Cambridge), are relied on as proving the innocence of both Dudley and Forster. The same writer also states that Ashmole's account of the subsequent life of the latter is incorrect: he lived for twelve years after the death of Amy Robsart, loving music to the last, building a new house, and only two years before his death entered public life as member for Abingdon. Motley (*United Netherlands*, i. 368) also writes:—

"Leicester's participation in the death of his first wife was a matter of current belief among his contemporaries. 'He is infamed by the death of his wife,' said Burghley, and the tale has since become so interwoven with classic and legendary fiction, that the phantom of the murdered Amy Robsart is sure to arise at every mention of the earl's name. Yet a coroner's

inquest—as appears from his own secret correspondence with his relative and agent at Cumnor — was immediately and persistently demanded by Dudley. A jury was impannelled — every man of them a stranger to him and some of them enemies—Anthony Forster, Appleyard, and Arthur Robsart, brother-in-law and brother of the lady, were present, according to Dudley's special request; 'and, if more of her friends could have been sent,' said he, 'I would have sent them;' but with all their minuteness of inquiry, 'they could find,' wrote Blount, 'no presumption of evil,' although he expressed a suspicion that 'some of the jurymen were sorry they could not.' That the unfortunate lady was killed by a fall downstairs was all that could be made of it by a coroner's inquest, rather hostile than otherwise, and urged to rigorous investigation by the supposed culprit himself. Nevertheless, the calumny has endured for three centuries, and is likely to survive as many more."

The *Church* is interesting. The W. tower is bold E.E., with fine belfry storey, corbel table, and Trans. Norm. W. door. Nave, N. aisle, is good Dec., with Dec. piscina (once belonging to an altar here of St. Thomas the Martyr), and an old oak altar-table: the N. arcade E.E. There is a S. Transeptal chapel, Dec., with two rich tomb-recesses in which floriated-cross tomb covers have been placed, and there is a good piscina of an old altar to St. Catherine. In this chapel the W. window of diamond reticulation recalls the unusual tracery of the E. window of Stanton St. John, Oxon. There is here a chained Bible (1611 edition) and a Jacobean pulpit and reading pew. The chancel has a small Trans. Norm. window on the N., and on the S. two Dec. windows in Trans. Norm. frames, the E. window good Dec. of three lights: under the high altar is buried Abbot Rowland. Here are some excellent Perp. seats with rich carved poppy-heads. On one on the N. side are the emblems of the Passion, the spear, sponge on a rod, seamless coat, cock, ladder, Judas' money bag, the five wounds, and (now cut nearly flat) the pincers, hammer, and dice. On the N. is a curious Gothic-Renaissance canopied monument to Anthony Forster, his wife, and three sons. He is represented in armour, with thirty-two lines of elegiacs describing him as amiable and learned, a great musician, builder, and planter. He left Cumnor to Lord Leicester for a payment of £1200. Lord Leicester sold it to the first Baron Norreys of Rycote, from whom by the female it came to the Earl of Abingdon, its present owner. There are two *brasses* of a man and woman with inscriptions to — Staverton, Edith Staverton, and Katheryn Staverton, 1577 and 1580. At the W. of the N. aisle are some interesting mementoes of Amy Robsart, including a copy of a note written by her from Cumnor to Wm. Edney, tailor at the Tower, as to the alteration of a gown, and promising to see him paid. She died before the gown was finished. The bill was paid five years later by Leicester, and found pinned to the note among a number of his documents at Longleat House, Wilts, a few years ago. A heavy but well wrought figure of Queen Elizabeth in stone, with gilding, in this aisle, came from old Cumnor Place. Its restoration, and the excellent state of the church, are due to the constant care of the antiquarian Vicar, S. Y. N. Griffith.

From Cumnor a pleasant bridle path, through gorse and woodland fields, leads down to Bablockhithe, 4 m. from Oxford, where there is a ferry into Oxfordshire:—

"Thee at the ferry, Oxford riders blithe,
Returning home on summer nights have met,
Crossing the stripling Thames at Bablockhithe,
Trailing in the cool stream thy fingers wet,
As the slow punt swings round"
Matthew Arnold.

Cumnor Hurst, with its clump of trees, is a well-known landmark.

Between Cumnor and Oxford many fine views of the city can be obtained.

At Botley, just before the main road enters Oxfordshire, is a road leading N. 2 m. to the pretty village of **Wytham**. It is known in Oxford as the "strawberry village," and in the season is entirely given up to providing that fruit. The strawberries grow here in great profusion, and in almost all the gardens of the spotlessly clean little cottages are arbours of honeysuckle and creepers, with tables for the accommodation of visitors from Oxford. Strawberries are eaten systematically out of clean white bowls, with heavy-stemmed wine-glasses to pound them.

Wytham Abbey (Earl of Abingdon) is a 16th-cent. stone building, with a fine embattled gate-tower surmounted by two octagonal turrets. It was built by one of the Harcourts, whose arms are to be seen upon a ceiling, and has been enriched with much of the spoil of Rycote (*see* Handbook to Oxfordshire).

Close to the Abbey is the *Church*, rebuilt in 1814, mainly with old materials from Cumnor Hall; some of the windows have Trans.-Dec., and others Perp. tracery. The churchyard gate, inscribed "Janua vitæ verbum Domini," is also from Cumnor, but the name and date, "Antonius Forster, 1571," have been effaced. There is a *Brass* of a man in armour, and wife, supposed to be Richard and Alice de Wygtham, 1455.

The *Wytham Woods*, stretching over the hill behind the Abbey, are intersected by rides and drives of great beauty, chiefly through grass lanes. Admittance is only granted by a special order from Lord Abingdon. At the farthest point of the woods is a wild open space covered with thyme and cistus, whence there is a fine view over the Vale of Eynsham. Here legend places the castle of Cynewulf, King of the W. Saxons, which was besieged and taken by Offa, King of Mercia, who made it his palace. Near the same place was a nunnery, founded by the sister of Ceadwalla in the seventh century, but deserted by the nuns when Cynewulf built his castle.

The manor of Wytham was early the property of the Wygthams, who became extinct *temp.* Edward IV. The manor afterwards passed to the Harcourts, and from them to the Crown. In 1539 it was granted to Sir John, afterwards Lord Williams of Thame, whose daughter and heiress brought it by marriage to Henry, Lord Norris (see *Yattendon*), son of the Sir Henry Norris executed as the lover of Anne Boleyn. It came to the Berties by the marriage of Montagu Bertie, Earl of Lindsey, with the daughter of Edward Wray, groom of the chamber to James I., whose wife Elizabeth was the daughter and heiress of Francis Lord Norreys.

Leaving Botley, the road (now called the Seven Bridges Road) enters Oxfordshire, and reaches at

17 m. OXFORD.

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